Atlanta/GA

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News Tips
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Census proves gays 'everywhere' in GA

Same-sex 'unmarried partners' noted in every county in the state, although most live in urban areas

by ERIC ERICKSON

ATLANTA—Final numbers from the U.S. Census counting the number of gay couples in Georgia hold good news and some surprises for activists examining the statistics.

Same-sex "unmarried partners" were noted in every county in the state, and gay couples actually outnumbered unmarried opposite-sex couples in one city, the Atlanta suburb of Pine Lake.

The 2000 Census form did not ask sexual orientation, but participants could check "unmarried partner" to describe their household and indicate that their partner is of the same-sex. The figures on same-sex "unmarried partners" offer what's being called the first real look at how many gay and lesbian couples populate America.

"It certainly is the best indication we have to date of the breadth and the depth of our community's presence throughout the state of Georgia," said Harry Knox, executive director of the statewide gay political group Georgia Equality, who has examined the numbers closely.

"These numbers are at least a good start of corroborating the claims that the community has been making for a long time about the number of people who are gay in the country," Knox said.

The number of same-sex unmarried partners in Georgia jumped 451 percent from 1990, the first time the option was available on the Census, although Census officials have warned against directly comparing the two figures due to a change in counting methodology.

Statistics released by the U.S. Census Bureau on Wednesday show 19,288 same-sex partner households registered in Georgia in the 2000 Census—13 percent of the state's 145,743 total unmarried partner households.

"A lot of people think that it doesn't do any good to even be counted," said Fulton County resident Wayne Couch, who used the "unmarried partner" option on the Census with his partner, Robbi Peterson. "You have to make yourself heard. If you don't, you're going to be stomped on."

The new Census numbers may make it harder for anti-gay politicians to "stomp" on anyone, gay political activists said

"So many times, we hear from legislators 'that's just not an issue in my district, there are not gay people in my district,'" Knox said. "This will at least begin to show legislators that there are a lot more than they thought are there."

Urban areas home to most gay couples in state

As expected for a progressive city in a relatively conservative state, counties surrounding Atlanta cited the most same-sex unmarried partner households: Fulton comes out on top with 3,481 households, with DeKalb close behind at 3,431.

But DeKalb County actually cited a higher percentage of gay households: same-sex partners account for 22 percent of all unmarried partner households there, compared to 19.2 percent of all unmarried households in Fulton.

Cobb and Gwinnett counties also reported large numbers of gay couples, with 1,246 and 1,243 same-sex households respectively.

Outside the Atlanta area, Chatham County, home to the city of Savannah, cited 588 same-sex households; Richmond County, which includes part of Augusta, cited 374; Bibb County, which includes most of Macon, had 299; Muscogee County, home to Columbus, cited 292; and Athen's Clarke County had 254.

Gays 'everywhere' in GA

Examining the numbers more closely reveals pockets of gay men and lesbians in every corner of Georgia.

Dade County, in the state's most northwest corner, only reported 35 same-sex partner households. Crunch the numbers, however, and you discover that makes up 20 percent of the total unmarried partner households.

Wheeler, Wilcox and Montgomery are all extremely rural counties in Central Georgia, each with same-sex partner households also making up close to 20 percent of the total unmarried partner households.

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

Wayne Couch and partner Robbi Peterson are among the almost 20,000 same-sex Georgia couples who identified their relationship on the 2000 Census.

Further proof gays are everywhere is that every single county reported at least one same-sex unmarried couple. According to the Census numbers, Taliaferro County, just north of Interstate 20 between Atlanta and Augusta, is home to just two lesbian couples. Quitman County, on the Alabama border far from any urban center, reported just one household of male-male partners.

While the statistics hold proof of gay political presence around the state, they may also hold an inherent danger, activists acknowledged.

"Our opponents can pick these numbers up and say 'these are all the gay people that you have to worry about. They're not as big a deal as you may think,'" Knox said.

Politicians representing cities within the Atlanta metropolitan statistical area will be harder pressed to ignore the numbers of gay couples. The Census reported same-sex couples account for 15 percent of all unmarried partners in the massive Atlanta MSA.

Breaking stereotypes of where gays live

Overall, 77 percent of same-sex unmarried households in Georgia are in the state's urban areas, according to analysis by the

➢ Continued on Page 6

Correction

An article in last week's *Southern Voice*, "ATL gay gym owners battle in court," incorrectly reported that Atlanta attorney and former City Council candidate Joe Kelly was named a "co-conspirator" in a civil suit between the gym owners, who are Kelly's former clients. There has been no allegation of wrongdoing against Kelly by any party. *Southern Voice* regrets the error.

INSIDE

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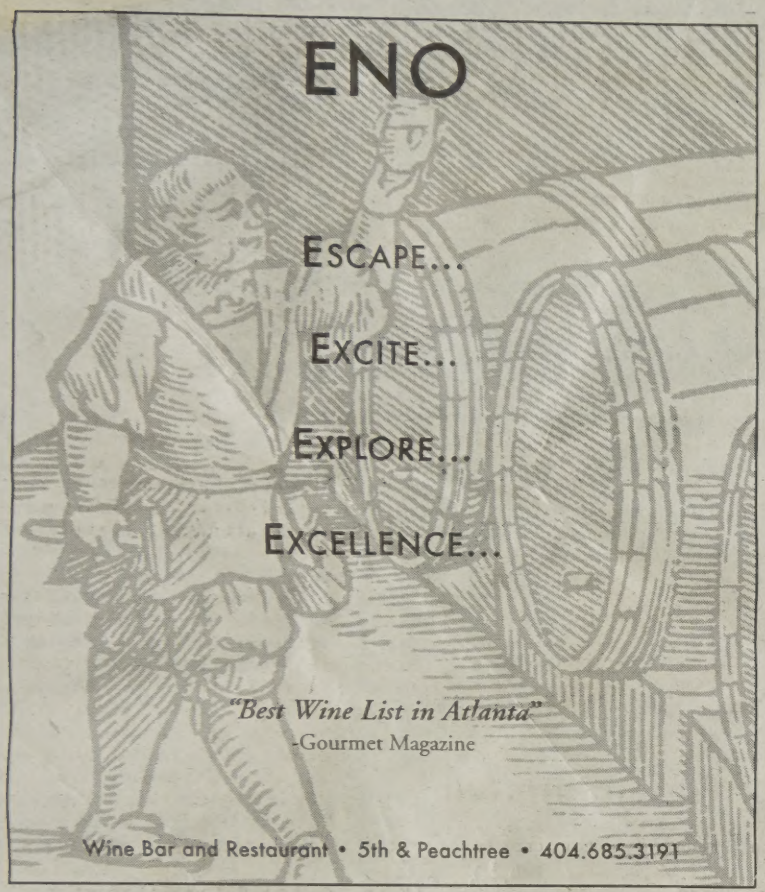

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around the south

Gay man challenging FL adoption law may lose boy he raised

MIAMI (AP)—The Florida Department of Children & Families has told a gay man challenging Florida's ban on adoption by gays that it plans to place his 10-year-old foster son with another family. Steven Lofton learned of the department's intentions last Friday during a court hearing. Lofton is a plaintiff in an upcoming federal court trial in Key West that will challenge Florida's 1977 law that prohibits adoption by gays. Lawyers from the ACLU and a Florida child-welfare group will argue that the law unconstitutionally discriminates against gays and limits opportunities for the 3,000 Florida foster children awaiting adoption. Conservatives contend the law is the state's only way of protecting traditional families. U.S. District Judge James Lawrence King called the controversy "one of the very difficult social issues" and said he could take up to a month to rule. If he denies summary judgment, the case would continue to trial.

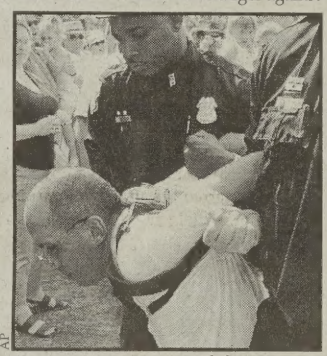
Census shows most SC gay partners live in urban areas

COLUMBIA, S.C.—More than two-thirds of gay South Carolina couples live in urban areas, according to U.S. Census figures released last week. But activists say the numbers likely say more about gay residents' comfort levels with coming out on the government form than they do about the actual size of the state's gay population. South Carolina reported 7,609 same-sex households on the 2000 Census, up from 1,067 reported on the 1990 Census—a 613 percent increase, although Census officials have warned against directly comparing the two numbers because of changes in the ways some data was processed. "That is only a small part of the gay and lesbian community," Ed Madden, who was counted on the Census with his partner, Bert Easter, told the Associated Press. "Part of the way real progress comes is being out and registering things."

For more on this story, visit www.sovo.com.

Court delayed for gay protesters arrested at FL Bush rally

TAMPA—Prosecutors want more time to decide whether to move ahead with charges against protesters arrested last month at a rally for President George W. Bush, according to the *St. Petersburg Times*. Police arrested three people after they refused to put down signs that said "Investigate Florida Votergate" and "June is Gay Pride Month" at a rally at Legends Field. All three were charged with trespassing and one protester, Sonja Haught, 59, was also charged with disorderly conduct. If found guilty, they could face up to a year in jail and a $1,000 fine. When two of protesters appeared in court on Monday, the case was delayed until July 30. "We are hoping the state does the right thing," attorney William A. Knight said. "It's our position that no crime was committed." The three protesters—Haught, Janis M. Lentz, 55, of New Port Richey, and Mauricio Rosas, 37, of Tampa—got tickets to attend the rally at Legends Field on June 4. When the three waved the anti-Bush placards in a crowd filled with pro-Bush signs, people began to yell at the three and two Republican volunteers singled out the protesters and asked Tampa police officers to remove them.



AP

Mauricio Rosas was one of three gay protesters arrested at a Tampa rally for President Bush last month. Prosecutors delayed a hearing last week to take more time to consider the charges against the protesters.

Gay-friendly LA senator faces tough re-election bid

NEW ORLEANS—Moderate U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.) is walking a fine line toward re-election to a second term, balancing a gay-friendly approach to progressive legislation with an often conservative electorate, political analysts said. "[Landrieu] has a 100 percent rating on the issues that are of importance to us, so that makes her a valuable lawmaker from our point of view," said Andrew Hutchinson, political analyst for the Human Rights Campaign. Recently, Landrieu favored an amendment to an education bill seen as anti-gay, but dropped her support before the vote was counted. Landrieu and her pro-gay voting record "could have problems getting re-elected, depending upon the quality of [her] opponents," said Stuart Rothenberg, an expert Senate analyst.

For more on this story, visit www.sovo.com.

Conservatives can't pull FL GOP into anti-gay petition

MIAMI—Supporters of a petition drive to overturn Broward County's gay rights ordinance failed July 16 to get the local Republican Party to sign on, the *Miami Herald* reported. A motion by former Broward Republican Chairman Ed Pozzouli not to take a position on the petition drive passed in a voice vote in the monthly meeting at the Sheraton Suites Cypress Creek hotel in Fort Lauderdale. A separate motion by religious activist Barbara Collier that the party oppose cuts in public funding or access to the Boy Scouts also passed. The vote to remain neutral on the petition drive was a victory for Broward Republican Party Chairman George LeMiuex and his politically moderate supporters, who have controlled the party since the early 1990s. "We need to be unified, and this issue divides us," he said. The petition drive aims to put a referendum on the ballot repealing the 1995 law that bans anti-gay discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations

—From staff and wire reports

Silence=defeat on DP benefits?

Almost 10 years after gays protested vocally until Atlanta offered DP benefits, Fulton County rejects DP proposal amid near silence

by PENNY WEAVER

ATLANTA—In the face of mass lobbying by gay men and lesbians, the city of Atlanta first voted nearly a decade ago to offer a domestic partnership registry and DP benefits for city employees.

But the county that encompasses the city has still not followed suit.

Fulton County leaders flatly rejected a proposal last week to reach out to domestic partners—this time, in the midst of silence from most gays in metro Atlanta.

In the wake of the resounding 5-2 "no" vote July 18 on a proposal to offer unmarried couples, including gays, benefits from the county government, at least one major opponent of the proposal says the issue had nothing to do with gays, and supporters are stunned at the defeat.

District 5 Commissioner Emma Darnell spoke out and voted against a proposal from District 6 Commissioner Nancy Boxill to extend insurance benefits to partners of county employees.

Prior to the July 18 vote, Darnell repeatedly referred to the living arrangements of unmarried couples as "shacking." In an interview after the vote, Darnell said she followed the advice of the county attorney, who said that discrimination based on marital status is not considered unlawful discrimination.

"My position is the day that the courts change that position, the day that they consider discrimination based on marital status to be unlawful, that's the day that I will be able to support the domestic partnership act," Darnell said. "But at this particular time, even though people have tried to make it an issue about gays, I think it's an issue about marital status."

When commissioners considered the issue last week, the handful of gays in the audience did not speak out, and the vote came before the meeting's public comment section. And while an initial defeat of Atlanta's DP benefits in 1993 sparked days of street protests and picketing, there has been almost no public reaction to Fulton's refusal.

Harry Knox, executive director of Georgia Equality, the statewide nonpartisan gay political group, said the organization lobbied commissioners before the meeting and expected to have the votes to pass the DP measure.

He said the political scene in Fulton is different than the situation in Atlanta a few years ago.

"I don't think any amount of sort of protesting in the streets... would have made a difference in this case," Knox said. "Uproars are not sustainable over the length of time it takes to pass legislation."

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

Fulton County Commissioner Emma Darnell both voted and spoke out against a proposal to offer DP benefits to unmarried partners of county employees, repeatedly referring to such living arrangements as 'shacking.'

Atlanta led the way

In June 1993, the Atlanta City Council and Fulton County Commission both were set to consider proposals for a DP registry and benefits within each panel's jurisdiction.

The City Council first approved both a citywide DP registry and benefits for city employees, but then-Mayor Maynard Jackson vetoed the benefits plan a month later. He cited financial concerns.

Although Jackson had signed the DP registry measure, hundreds of gay men and lesbians protested his veto of the benefits proposal. Activists picketed at City Hall, and some even protested at Jackson's home, smearing themselves with ketchup to symbolize being "stabbed in the back" by the mayor.

Longtime gay political lobbyist Larry Pellegrini was part of the effort to secure Atlanta's DP benefits. At the time, Pellegrini worked with GAPAC, the statewide political action committee that advocated for gays.

"Whenever there were hearings, we had the room full of people," Pellegrini said of the effort by gay men and lesbians in favor of DP benefits from the city. "We filled up not only the committee meetings, but the general council meetings; we filled the council chambers. There was a great community effort on that that ultimately was successful three different times."

The council later drafted a slightly different proposal, and Jackson signed it in the early fall, making unmarried partners of city employees eligible for insurance benefits.

But it was not that simple. Opponents took the issue to court twice, and it stalled for nearly four years, until a 1997 court decision gave a green light for the benefits for gays and unmarried straight couples.

Finally, Atlanta became the 14th city in the country and the first, and still only, in Georgia to offer its employees DP benefits.

Quietly and four years later, DeKalb this spring became the first county in Georgia to offer domestic partner benefits to its employees with a 6-1 vote and little comment from either supporters or opponents.

Supporters of DP benefits for Fulton County appeared to be using the same silent strategy before last week's vote: No gay groups issued press releases before the vote urging supporters to attend the meeting, and Boxill, the measure's sponsor, introduced it one week before the vote without discussion.

Boxill said in an interview the day before introducing the bill that she hadn't lobbied her fellow commissioners in advance about the issue.

Fulton gives thumbs down

Fulton County Commission Chair Mike Kenn, a Republican, once backed efforts to draft a partner benefits package, and appointed a committee stacked with gay rights supporters to make recommendations about the benefits.

But late last year, Kenn refused to support DP legislation drafted by the committee. He said in an October interview, through spokesperson Michael Harris, that he did not support DP benefits legislation and that his campaign pledge was only to "examine" DP benefits.

Gay advocates Georgia Equality and Georgia Log Cabin Republicans both backed Kenn in his 1998 campaign, based on his promise at that time to support DP benefits for Fulton employees, they said.

Kenn voted "no" on the DP benefits ordinance proposed by Boxill, which Knox said was based on the legislation originally drafted by Kenn's committee. In addition to Kenn, those opposing the measure were commissioners Darnell, Bob Fulton, William Edwards and Tom Lowe.

Boxill was joined in her affirmative vote by Commissioner Karen Webster.

Rob Simms, chief of staff for Kenn, said the his opposition was about cost.

"He had some concerns about the financial impact and the fact that no one from a county staff point of view had any clue of how many people would sign up and how much it would cost," Simms said.

The chairman also was concerned that the proposal from Boxill was "broadly written," according to Simms.

"We weren't necessarily talking about domestic partner benefits for homosexual employees that were in relationships but we were also talking about [benefits] to be conveyed to partners or roommates or whatever of heterosexual employees as well," Simms said.

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

Fulton County Commissioner Nancy Boxill proposed offering DP benefits to unmarried partners, including gays, but was defeated in a 5-2 vote.

The proposed legislation said domestic partners had to be of legal age to enter a contract, share the same primary residence, have lived together for 12 months, not be married or separated for anyone else, not be related by blood "closer than would bar marriage," be each other's sole domestic partner, and "have a committed personal relationship with each other that is mutually interdependent and intended to be lifelong."

During the July 18 commission meeting, officials estimated that benefits for dependents of county employees would cost the county $2,400 per year per person.

Boxill, Webster, Fulton, Edwards and Lowe could not be reached for comment by press time.

Where to go from here

In contrast to the uproar in the City of Atlanta on the same issue nearly a decade ago, the push for DP benefits in Fulton County has included almost no vocal support from gay men and lesbians, and no vocal outrage at the rejection.

Knox said Georgia Equality assisted Boxill in drafting the proposal and also lobbied the commission.

"We produced citizen response to the various commissioners through e-mail and phone and that kind of thing to get people to call in," he said.

Activists believed they had the votes to pass the measure.

"Commissioner Edwards did [say he would favor the issue], and of course Commissioner Kenn had, although we suspected he wasn't going to vote for it," Knox said.

With at least three votes and possibly four in favor, "Commissioner Boxill felt that it was a risk worth taking, [hoping] that she could convince either Commissioner Lowe or Commissioner Darnell to vote for it," he added.

The differences in the political atmospheres in DeKalb versus Fulton contributed to the different results for the DP proposals, according to Knox.

"You have a completely different situation in DeKalb County where you don't have Republicans in leadership. That's not the case in Fulton County," he said. "You come in with three votes against you in this case. It's a tough situation."

INFO

Fulton County Commission
141 Pryor St.
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-730-4000
www.co.fulton.ga.us/boardofcommissioners

Georgia Equality
P.O. Box 78351
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1514 Monroe Drive (Near Piedmont Rd)

atlanta/ga. news

Savannah cyclists join MT AIDS Vaccine Ride

SAVANNAH, Ga.—A team of cyclists with Moon River Brewing Co. will join the Montana AIDS Vaccine Ride on July 30. Part of Pallota TeamWorks, which organizes rides all over the country to raise money for AIDS research, the cyclists will depart from Missoula, Mont., and arrive seven days later in Billings. More than 2,000 cyclists will make the 575-mile trek as a "moving monument," according to John Pinkerton, a member of the Savannah team. "Everyone who rides has been touched in some way by the AIDS epidemic. Because of this unifying force, there is a culture to the ride that we don't experience in day-to-day life," Pinkerton said. Team Moon River has five members and a goal to raise $17,000. The funds will be designated to three research facilities, including Emory University in Atlanta. Earlier this year, the team held a fund-raiser for Coastal AIDS Support & Education. "While the vaccine ride is our big global project, we will continue to work in the community throughout the year," Pinkerton said.

INFO
Team Moonriver Brewing Co.
John Pinkerton
912-447-0943
pink@moonriverbrewing.com
www.vaccineride.org

AP

AIDS Rides staged by Pallotta TeamWorks since 1994 have raised $83 million. An upcoming ride in Montana will raise funds for vaccine research at Emory University in Atlanta.

Gay troupe hosts benefit for ATL congregation

ATLANTA—A July 28 benefit for the First Existentialist congregation will feature Adodi Muse, a gay African-American ensemble. The group was established in 1995 by Tony Daniels and Jerel Cooper as a collective to help preserve black, gay writing. The group evolved into a performance troupe. Adodi Muse performers include Anthony Antoine, Malik M. L. Williams and Duncan Teague, senior member of the group and also a lay minister at First Existentialist. African-Americans have used First Existentialist for concerts, programs, dances and memorials, Teague said. "This show is a chance to give back to the church. The congregation is a small one and summer is a financially hard time for all non-profits as everyone goes on vacation," he added. Funds raised will be used for everyday expenses such as utility bills, he said. Other artists joining the benefit include Robin White of Good Company, Curtis Tension, an artist and poet, and Billy & Mike, who will perform a spiritual dance number.

INFO
Adodi Muse Benefit
July 28, 8 p.m.
First Extentialist
470 Candler Park Dr. N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30307
404-378-5570
Suggested donation: $5.99

UGA group seeks video donations to Athens library

ATHENS, Ga.—Members of a University of Georgia organization are seeking donations to outfit the Athens-Clarke County public library with movies that offer positive portrayals ofgay men and lesbians. Mark Taylor, a member of UGA's Gay, Lesbian Or Bisexual Employees & Supporters, said he came up with the idea after national media coverage surrounding a recent report that said gays could change their sexual orientation. "I was tired of all this negative feeling toward being gay. In contributing videos to the public library, we offer the community free access to gay movies," Taylor said. He said the library reacted positively to the offer. "They were all for it and suggested the dedication option," Taylor said. For a donation of $25, the library will attach an "in memory of" or "in honor of" gift plate to any video chosen. Among videos to be purchased for donation are "Better Than Chocolate," "Beautiful Thing," "Boys Don't Cry" and "Tongues Untied." GLOBES has a list of 31 videos to purchase for the collection. The videos will be divided into two lists for easier fund-raising. Currently, $80 has been raised out of the $321.28 needed for the first group of videos, he said.

INFO
GLOBES Video Roundup
c/o Mark Taylor
UGA-Office of Admissions
315 Terrell Hall
Athens, GA 30602-1633

Gays in coastal GA city launch new Web site

SAVANNAH, Ga.—Georgia's oldest city now has its own gay Web site, as GaySavannah.com launched last month. David Gardner, along with his partner Larry Hodges, came up with the idea to create the gay-friendly site to assist their bed and breakfast, the Paradise Inn. "Part of owning a B&B is keeping up with all the tourist attractions, restaurants and even real estate property. It just seemed logical to create an information site targeted to the gay community," Gardner said. The first stage will be business, though the site will eventually contain listings of gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses, a tour and travel section, calendar of events, classifieds and personals, he said.

INFO
GaySavannah.com
PO Box 8911
Savannah, GA 31412
www.GaySavannah.com

—Compiled by Andrew Keegan

Gay youth allege homophobia by ATL police

But YouthPride leaders say they are now pleased with police response to complaint surrounding parade permit application

by ERIC ERICKSON

ATLANTA—Leaders of an Atlanta group for gay youth have charged the Atlanta Police Department with being "disrespectful of our struggle as queer youth" when they applied for a march permit, although the group now says it is pleased with how police have responded to their complaints.

The allegations surround Unity Above Hate, an annual march though downtown Atlanta to promote better visibility of gay youth, held May 26.

In a July 3 letter to police and city officials, Aileen Haggerty, a member of the march planning committee, and Asha Leong, YouthPride program manager, outlined six separate incidents they said were discriminatory toward YouthPride.

The allegations concern the process they followed to obtain required permits to march on city streets. The letter said YouthPride encountered several problems throughout the process, including an alleged insult from police.

"I think they had every right to write the letter and I think they have some valid concerns in the letter," said Linda Ellis, YouthPride's executive director.

A spokesperson for the Atlanta Police Department did not respond to written questions about the charges by press time.

The first incident listed in the letter took place in February during YouthPride's preliminary contact with the police

"When Aileen first contacted the office via telephone in February, she was asked 'didn't you just have one of those marches?'" according to the letter. "This was disrespectful of the officer to insinuate that we didn't need to have another of our events so soon, as if we no longer had to deal with discrimination and hatred as queer youth."

The letter also said an officer referred to the march as an "alternative lifestyles" event.

"We do not consider our lifestyles alternative and recognize this phrasing as an insult," Haggerty and Leong said in the letter.

The document also outlines numerous problems with the process of receiving the permit for the march. Aside from not receiving a copy of the permit, Haggerty and Leong allege the police gave other requests higher priority and changed the march route at the last minute.

"We are quite angered by the behavior of the Special Operations Section," Haggerty and Leong wrote. "First, they were disrespectful of our struggle as queer youth. The comments noted [in the letter] show that the city police department does not understand or support our fight against discrimination."

But Ellis, YouthPride's director, said the police department's actions since receiving the letter have shown the opposite. Both Ellis and Leong said upon receipt of the letter, the police made quick contact with YouthPride about their complaints.

FRED YOUNGBLOOD

YouthPride members said they endured discrimination from police when applying for permits for the Unity Above Hate march held in May.

YouthPride and police are planning to schedule a meeting with department leaders and the youth about the alleged discrimination and improving relations between the two organizations.

"The quick response from the police department was a pleasant surprise, and I think it's going to be a pleasant experience for both the police department folks and the youth of YouthPride to sit down and talk about it," Ellis said.

Leong said a date for the meeting has not been set. Leong declined further comment on the letter or the meeting with police.

Dozens of youth and gay leaders participated in Unity Above Hate on May 26, carrying signs and flags from the Georgia Capitol to the Martin Luther King Jr. Center in downtown Atlanta. The third annual event was preceded by four educational workshops and followed by a rally and fund-raising dinner for YouthPride.

"I am proud of their willingness to take things on," Ellis said. "At the same time, I think that they take things on quicker and more vocally than I would, so that makes for good conversations for us."

ACTION!info

Atlanta Police Department
City Hall East
675 Ponce de Leon Ave. NE
Atlanta, GA 30308
404-853-3434

YouthPride
302 E. Howard Ave.,
Decatur, GA
404-223-6789
www.youthpride.org

Gay health summit in south GA draws fire

Conservatives say summit won't be 'a positive thing for our community'

by ERIN O'BRIANT

JEKYLL ISLAND, Ga.—The Southeast Regional Gay Men's Health Summit scheduled for late August promises a wide-ranging discussion of health issues, but has drawn criticism from conservatives.

Sherena Arrington, a resident of nearby St. Simons Island, Ga., told the *Brunswick News*, "We're asking [the host hotel and the Jekyll Island Authority] that they reconsider this as not being a positive thing for our community."

Arrington has reportedly encouraged local residents to pressure both the Clarion Resort Buccaneer, the host hotel, and the JIA to cancel the conference, but they have not done so.

Arrington did not return phone calls seeking comment.

Plans for the summit have also drawn the ire of a pastor who hosts a radio show in Jacksonville, Fla., according to Jeff Wilkinson, executive director of South Beach AIDS Project in Miami Beach, Fla., and a member of the summit planning committee.

Protests over the show highlight why a summit specifically for gay men is needed, he said.

"We're moving forward with our efforts in face of any opposition," Wilkinson said. "It was more positive for us to move forward with being aware of it but not addressing their concerns, because we knew their concerns were not valid to begin with."

Wilkinson said he expects about 150 to 200 attendees at the regional event. The summit is a spin-off from national gatherings in 1999 and 2000 that focused on more than HIV in gay men's health education, he added.

"The goal of that national summit was... to impart the knowledge for the people at the summit to go back to their communities and host either state, local or community summits," he said.

Wilkinson said he and other board members decided they could have the greatest effect on the community by taking a regional approach to the meeting.

"I don't believe any of the states being targeted have had any state-specific or local gay men's summits," he said.

A gay men's health summit is important, he said, as activists prepare to face the third decade of the AIDS epidemic.

"The gay male community has had to own that disease, and it has taken a lot of focus as one of our primary health issues," he said. "Because of the impact of HIV and AIDS, it has over-shadowed a lot of health issues."

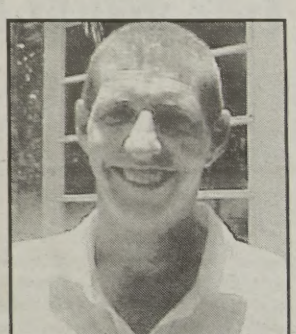
The event will include information about "the impact of HIV and AIDS and the pressing health issues the disease presents, but [will be] going beyond that to mental health, physical health, general well-being that people need to have on their radar screen that could also impact HIV and AIDS prevention," Wilkinson said.

The program includes plenary sessions, workshops and social activities. Session topics include health, relationships, diversity, community-building and well-being.

Earl Fox, the most recent outgoing administrator of the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration, will deliver the opening plenary address.

INFO

Southeast Regional Gay Men's Health Summit
Aug. 23-26
c/o AID Atlanta
1438 W. Peachtree St.
Atlanta, GA 30309
404-870-7822
www.aidatlanta.org/summit
cost: $150



Jeff Wilkinson, a member of the planning committee of the Southeast Regional Gay Men's Health Summit, said the event will focus on many issues, including AIDS.

Census figures far from complete

➢ Continued from Page 1

Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group.

But the 33 percent who live in rural areas contradict the myth that being gay is just a big city "lifestyle," activists said.

Breaking down the numbers by counties also highlights other surprises that go against popular stereotypes. While DeKalb County—home to the city of Decatur and the Lake Claire neighborhood—is widely considered home to more lesbians than gay men, the Census figures show 333 more gay male couples than lesbian couples living in the county.

"As we all played into those stereotypes, we are all guilty," Knox said. "It will help LGBT organizations and businesses that are seeking to market to the [gay] community to be a little more realistic of their understanding of where gay people are."

Megan Murray, who lives in DeKalb County with her partner of almost two years, is surprised by the numbers and said she believes the numbers are severely low, highlighting the under-reporting of gay and lesbian couples.

"I would believe that men would have more of a tendency to fill it out [as unmarried partners]," said Murray. "Just because men tend to be a little more aggressive and assertive and 'here we are,' whereas women may be more like 'I may have kids, I don't want anyone to know that I'm gay necessarily, because I have my children.'"

While the DeKalb County numbers seem low for lesbians, the numbers for individual cities fall more in line with expectations. Murray lives in the tiny Atlanta suburb of Pine Lake, where she said she thinks lesbian couples outnumber gay male couples 10 to one.

GA Cities with Most Same-sex 'Unmarried Partner' Households

1. Atlanta: 11,871
2. Savannah: 696
3. Augusta: 568
4. Macon: 543
5. Athens: 355
6. Columbus: 354
7. Decatur: 256
8. Albany: 201

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

She's not far off. Lesbian couples make up exactly one half of the 36 unmarried couple in that city, with gay men accounting for three couples.

Overall, same-sex partners make up 58 percent of all unmarried partner households and 6.5 percent of all households in Pine Lake, which has the state's only openly gay mayor, plus two openly gay City Council members.

Count still not complete

While activists are excited to have the "real numbers" the Census provides, they are also quick to point out that the figures are far from a complete count of gay residents, or even gay couples, across the country.

"I don't think they represent all the gay families that live in Georgia and certainly not what we're seeing nationwide," said HRC Communications Director David Smith, who has been examining the Census 2000 numbers for the entire country and Georgia.

"One [reason] is prejudice," Smith said. "As much progress as we've made, people are still reluctant to identify as gay to the federal government."

Savannah resident Henry Frost has been with his partner for five years and also filled out the census form as a gay couple. He agreed with Smith that prejudice played a role in under reporting of gay couples.

"People are somewhat afraid if they fill it out in that manner that 'Oh, I'm going to be registered with the federal government as a homosexual and they're going to come and get me.' I think there are great fears of that nature involved in this," Frost said.

Federal laws prove those fears unfounded. While the Census forms contain names, federal law dictates they must be kept confidential for 72 years, which means such data from Census 2000 won't be available until 2072. Census data released earlier is done by statistics only without information that identifies individuals.

Census officials have also changed the way some gay couples were counted. In the last Census in 1990, same-sex partners who used "spouse" instead of "unmarried partner" to identify their household were allocated to a variety of different categories based on other demographic factors.

This time, all same-sex "spouses" were changed to "unmarried partners," and Census officials have warned this could account for some of the large increase in same-sex unmarried partners being seen across the country.

"[The Census] is going to provide state lawmakers with compelling arguments and compelling evidence that they need to take care of gay families," said Smith. " As well as making sure that policies treat gay families equally."

Gay group donates $25K to Fayette school

by LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

FAYETTEVILLE, Ga.—Administrators of Fayette County's Sandy Creek High School last Friday accepted a check for $25,000 from Enlight Atlanta, an organization working to end anti-gay harassment in schools.

The donation, presented during a July 13 dinner at the City Cafe in Fayetteville, was made out to the high school's choral boosters and earmarked for a new sound system and stage.

Enlight Executive Director Steve Epstein said his group decided to make the donation and present an award to the school's principal, Charles Warr, after school officials helped stop the harassment of Josh, a gay student who is being identified by only his first name.

INFO

Enlight Atlanta
P.O. Box 8597
Atlanta, GA 31106
404-872-4320
info@enlight-atlanta.org

"We wanted to be sure to let this principal know that he did the right thing, and how important that is," Epstein said.

Warr, who will become principal of Fayette High School in the fall, did not respond to an interview request by press time.

A supporter who wished to remain anonymous gave the money for the $25,000 donation, which did not come from Enlight's operating budget, Epstein said.

Epstein said Enlight allowed Josh to decide how the donation to his school would be spent, rather than dictating that it had to be used for a gay-specific cause, such as library books on gay issues. The student is involved in the school's drama and chorus programs, Epstein added.

But Enlight is in discussions with the Fayette County Public Library about augmenting its collection of gay-related books, Epstein said.

According to Enlight, Josh endured as many 40 harassing incidents each day until a meeting attended by his parents, Epstein, Warr, and the school's assistant principal and school counselor.

R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

New Sandy Creek High School Principal Roy Rabold (left) and Charles Warr (center), the school's former principal, accepted a $25,000 donation from Steve Epstein (right), Enlight's executive director.

The school administrators pledged to end the harassment, and as a result, several students who had harassed Josh were given warnings and one "strike" under Georgia's bullying law, Epstein said.

OBITUARIES

Agkachunas a volunteer for AIDS causes

Margaret 'Maggie' Agkachunas, 57, of Duluth, Ga., died June 28, 2001, after a year-long battle with lung cancer, according to her husband, Tom Agkachunas.

Agkachunas was employed as a credit investigator with Federated Department Stores until her illness forced her to resign last year. Actively involved in advocating gay issues, "She was always able to accept people for who they were," Tom Agkachunas said.

Agkachunas volunteered with AID Tampa before relocating to Duluth in 1991, where she served as both a staff member and a volunteer for AIDGwinnett.

An avid country music fan, Agkachunas had served on the board for Southern Country, a gay country music organization.

"She loved to travel around the country at the organization's hoedowns and meet new people," her husband said.

In addition to her husband, Agkachunas is survived by four brothers: James Gareis of Pringle, Pa.; Harold and Richard Gareis, both of Kingston, Pa.; and Charles Gareis, of Manasas, Va.; and her dog, Ms. Piedmont.

The family requests that donations be made to Pets Are Loving Support, 404-876-PALS, in her name.

—Andrew Keegan

Windom an inspiration, family says

H. Keith Windom, 37, of Atlanta died June 24 of renal failure associated with AIDS, according to his partner, Brad Keshlear.

Windom, formerly from Carrollton, Ga., was employed as a computer analyst for Delta Airlines. "He loved to travel, read, work outdoors and nurture his plants," Keshlear said. "We were partners for eight wonderful years and Rebel, his golden retriever, and myself miss him dearly."

In addition to Keshlear, survivors include parents, Henry and Ellen Windom; sister, Kathy Albright; brother, David Windom; and an aunt, Evelyn Windom, all of Carrollton, Ga.

The family requests that Windom be remembered as a source of joy and inspiration.

—Andrew Keegan

Pastor to start 'neighborhood' gay church

Creation of fourth gay MCC in metro Atlanta may help other congregations draw members, organizer says

by ERIC ERICKSON

ATLANTA—A new congregation for gay blacks will soon open its doors south of Atlanta, becoming the metro area's fourth gay-affirming Metropolitan Community Church congregation.

"We want to open it up so that they can see that God's love is everywhere," said Rev. Leevahn Smith, pastor of Truth Center, who has been with the United Fellowship of MCC since 1989. "We don't have to deny who we are to be accepted."

Smith has been building a base membership for the new church by holding Bible study classes in his home. The first services for Truth Center will be Aug. 12 at a Days Inn north of Hapeville.

Before forming a new congregation, Smith worked with First MCC teaching Sunday school and doing some preaching.

"He has a real heart to reach out really deep to the African-American community with a message that may be best heard by a fellow African-American pastor," said Rev. Paul Graetz of Atlanta's First MCC.

Unlike the other three MCCs in Atlanta, Smith plans to reach out specifically to Atlanta's black population. Christ Covenant MCC in Decatur has gained the reputation as a strong female-oriented congregation. The other two MCCs in Atlanta—First MCC and All Saints MCC—are on the city's north side.

"Many [blacks] still attend traditional black churches which often feature very homophobic sermons," said Smith. "The worship style at Truth Center will be familiar to blacks, and my hope is that our positive message about sexual orientation will provide a more healthy environment."

Smith, who said he was one of the first black pastors ordained by UFMCC and the third in Atlanta's district, added that blacks are underrepresented in UFMCC and in Atlanta's MCC congregations.

"The challenge I see is getting the word out," Smith said about starting a new congregation. "Also, letting people know, especially the African-American community, there's another story out there."

The story MCC churches preach is aimed specifically at gays. While that narrows the pool of potential church members, Graetz said a fourth church in metro Atlanta won't hurt the three already in place.

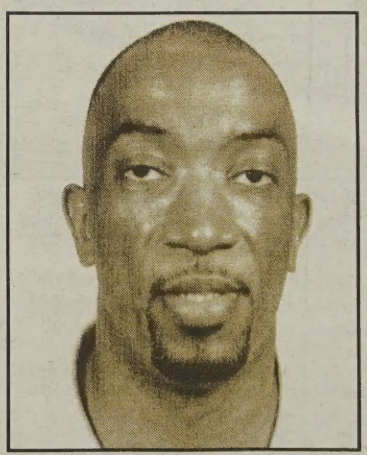
"We have found that in cities where there are multiple MCCs, the churches grow faster," Graetz said.

About 500 members belong to the three existing MCC congregations in Atlanta. Smith said he's starting with a much smaller group, but added that he's confident its gay-affirming message will attract enough new members.

"Gay-welcoming churches offer welcoming services with glass ceilings and second-class spirituality," Graetz said of gay-friendly mainstream denominations.

Rev. Troy Perry, a former Pentecostal pastor, founded UFMCC in 1968 in Los Angeles as a denomination that reaches out primarily to gay men and lesbians.

"This being a very metro city and a very sprawling city with gays and lesbians everywhere, there's more of a need to have an MCC associated with your neighborhood," Graetz said.



Rev. Leevahn Smith said he will use Truth Center to reach out to gay blacks in Atlanta.

INFO

Truth Center MCC
Rev. Leevahn Smith
770-951-1380
goodrevdr@aol.com
Meeting
Aug. 12
Days Inn
2788 Forest Hill Dr.
Atlanta, GA 30315
www.youthpride.org

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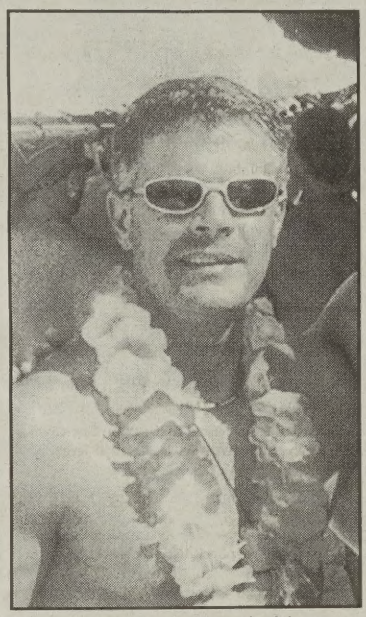
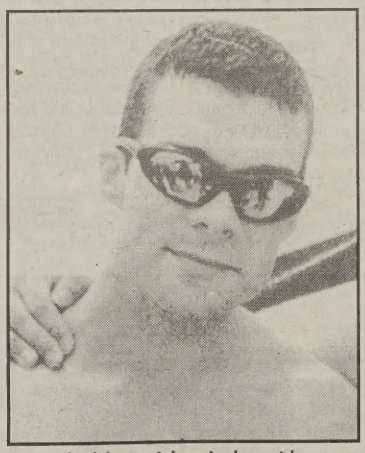
birthdays



'You...step to the right! Happy birthday to Atlanta's primo social diva, Patrick Benton, who turned 26 on July 26. He's proof fierceness is always welcome.'



'Happy birthday to Atlanta's glow stick guru, Robby House, who celebrates his 30th birthday July 22 (next year...this year, he turned 29).'

Southern Voice wishes a happy birthday to former business manager Dawna Wade on July 31.

Front Runners Atlanta wishes a happy birthday to Dave Faber on July 31.

The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus wishes a very happy birthday to its member Tom Tompkins (Baritone) on July 31.

atlanta/across ga. calendar

To add a listing, e-mail calendar@sovo.com, call 404-876-1819, ext. 36, or fax to 404-876-2709.

athens

saturday, july 28

ALL GLBT Teen Group. 2 pm. Presbyterian Student Center. 706-546-4611 or stock@negia.net.

atlanta

friday, july 27.

Atlanta Freedom Marching Band. 7 pm. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Way. 404-622-0666

Atlanta Rainbow Trout. 7:30 pm. Ladies Night Swim. Water polo/swim practice. GA Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

Hotlanta Volleyball Association. Evenings. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

Gay Hockey Atlanta. Evening practices. Play or watch. Duluth IceForum. 678-924-0960. www.gayhockeyatlanta.com.

YouthPride. Drop-in, 4:30 pm-12 am. Community social (ages 13-24), 8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

saturday, july 28

Atlanta Team Tennis Association Open Play. 2-6 pm. Social tennis for players at all levels. Piedmont Park. 770-621-2699

Front Runners. Meet at 8 am in parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

Georgia Field Hockey Association Women's League. 9 am-noon. All skill levels welcome. Nori, 770-985-4903

GLBT Roswell. 5-7:30 pm. Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North. CHenry8015@aol.com

sunday, july 29

Atlanta Rainbow Trout. 11 am. Water polo/swim practice. GA Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

monday, july 30

Coming Out Group. 7 pm. For lesbians, bisexuals and gay men who want to live their lives openly. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 6th floor. 404-523-7500. www.aglc.org

tuesday, july 31

Atlanta Outworlders. Interest group for gay science fiction fans meets at Miss Q's on Amersterdam Ave. for "Buffy" and "Dark Angel." 770-451-8947. www.outworlders.org

Atlanta Rainbow Trout. 8:30 pm. Swim practice. Ga. Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

GLBT Parenting Group. 7 pm. For gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered parents. 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-523-7500

Front Runners Run/Walk. 6:30 pm. Meet at the CVS shopping center at the northwest corner of Commerce Drive and Ponce De Leon Ave, Decatur. 770-621-5007

Hotlanta Volleyball Association. 7-10 pm. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

YouthPride. Drop-in, 4:30-10 pm. Gender-Bender, 8-10 pm. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

wednesday, aug 1

Front Runners 6:30 pm. Meet at parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

Volunteer Meeting. 4-7 pm. Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund. 1447 Peachtree St, Ste 1004. 404-897-1880

YouthPride. Drop-in, 4:30-10 pm. Teen Support Group (ages 13-18), 6-7:30 pm. Youth Council, 7:30-8:30 pm. Young Adult Discussion Group (ages 18-24), 8:30-10 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

thursday, aug 2

Atlanta Lesbian & Gay Pride Committee Operations Meeting. 7 pm. 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-876-3700

Atlanta Rainbow Trout. 8:30 pm. Swim practice. Ga. Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

Bridge Lessons. 10 am, 7 pm. Atlanta Bridge Center. Peggy Hayslip, 770-300-9895

Dungeons & Dragons. 3E D&D weekly group meeting in downtown Atlanta. Open to all levels of gay and gay-friendly RPG players. Contact ajones@mindspring.com

Georgia Log Cabin Republicans. 7 pm. The Peachtree Club, 28th Floor, First Union Building, 999 Peachtree St. 770-521-8315. www.lcrga.com

Lesbian Avengers. 7:30 pm. Weekly meeting of Atlanta chapter, open to all ages & gender identities. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave., Decatur. 404-978-1262 ext. 7744, or lesbianavengers@onebox.com

Libertarian Party of Cobb County. 7 pm. East Cobb Government Center, 4400 Lower Roswell Rd, Marietta. 770-590-8772

Men's Discussion Group. 7 pm. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 6th Floor. 404-523-7500.

People of Color Community Network. 7-9 pm. In the Life Atlanta. Indigo Arts Gallery & Playhouse, 1850 DeKalb Ave. 404-378-7703

YouthPride. Drop-in, 4:30-10 pm. Boy Talk (ages 13-18), 8-10 pm. Womyn's Group (ages 13-24), 8:30-10 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

macon

friday, july 27

CCAN Potluck Luncheons. Noon. Bring a covered dish to share. Diversity House Project, 2020 Ingleside Ave. Free.

savannah

sunday, july 29

Friends & Company. 6 pm. AMF Victory Lanes. 912-354-0658

monday, july 30

Bowling League. 9 pm. For single lesbians and gay men. AmF Savannah Lanes, 115 Tibet Avenue. $10/week. Trey or Trish, 912-925-0320.

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atlanta

20-Something. First Sunday, 6:30 pm. For persons 20-30. Innovox Lounge, 699 Ponce de Leon. 404-523-7500

AIDS Information & Referral Line. Monday through Friday, 10 am to 5 pm. AIDS Survival Project hotline for people living with HIV/AIDS. 404-874-7926

AIDS Survival Project. Information about resources available to people with AIDS, including THRIVE! Weekends, two-day conferences with free food and childcare provided. 404-874-7926, 1-877-AIDS-444. 404-524-0464 (TTY)

Alcoholics Anonymous. Tuesdays, 7 pm. Ormewood Park Presbyterian Church, corner Woodland & Delaware Aves. 404-627-2216

Alcoholics Anonymous. Tuesdays, 8 pm. Ga Baptist Medical Center's Newton House, 320 Parkway Dr. 800-651-8191

Atlanta Gender Explorations. First Saturday, 5-8 pm (for members); Third Saturday, call for time (for newcomers). Support group. Ormewood Park Presbyterian Church, 1071 Delaware Ave SE. 770-517-0265

BiNature. Third Tuesday, 7-9 pm. Bisexual/bi-friendly discussion and support group. First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Drive, Atlanta, GA 30307. 404-256-8992, or binet.home.mindspring.com

BiNet Atlanta. First Friday, 8 pm. Support and social group for bisexuals. Innovox Lounge, 699 Ponce de Leon. Call to confirm meeting. www.mindspring.com/~binet/. 404-256-8992

Children of Lesbians & Gays Support Group. Discussion group for children whose parents are gay. For information, call Becky, 770-649-6368

Dating Workshop. For gay men exploring strategies for dating success. Class starts June 26. To register, call 404-870-7763

Double Trouble in Recovery. Wednesdays, 7-8 pm. Peer-led 12-step group for individuals living with HIV and dealing with mental health related challenges and substance abuse issues, past or present. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., Ste. 605. 404-589-9040

Folami. Second Saturday, Noon (general meeting) &. 1:30 pm (topic-based support group). For black lesbian and bisexual women. AID Atlanta, 1438 W Peachtree St. 404-284-3053, or folamiatl@aol.com

Free counseling and HIV tests. Mon.-Fri. 9:30am-7pm. Sat 9am-1pm. Our Common Welfare, 4329 Memorial Drive, Suite H, Decatur. 404-296-3090. Also at 2416 Cascade Rd. SW every other Tues. 404-296-3090 or 404-758-2515

Friends, Families & Volunteers Support Group. 3rd Tuesday. 7:30 pm. AID Gwinnett, 725 Scenic Hwy, Lawrenceville.770-962-8396 ext. 28.

Friends for Life. Second & Fourth Saturdays, 2:00pm-4:00pm.. For African-American men In The Life. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., Ste. 605. 404-589-9040

GLBT Parents Group. Tuesdays, 7 pm. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 6th Floor. 404-523-7500

Grief Support Group. Every Sunday, 5:15 pm. Abundant Grace Community Church, 743 Virginia Ave. Call Dot 770-923-5714

Group Therapy. Come discover your full potential in the diversity of a supportive group! Call for screening and registration. Atlanta Center for Social Therapy. 770-242-2120.

HIV-negative Men's Group. Wednesdays, 7 pm. For HIV-negative men who have sex with other men. Presented by Positive Impact. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 6th Floor. To register, call 404-589-9040 ext. 302

HIV/STD testing. Monday to Thursday, 5:30-9 pm. Anonymous HIV/AIDS testing, confidential testing for STDs; hepatitis A, B, C; vaccination for hepatitis B. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404-523-7500

HIV-positive African-American Men's Support Group. Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30. AIDS Education Services for Minorities. 404-753-2900

HIV-positive Women 45 & Older Support Group. Thursdays, 11 am-noon. Shariffa Dempsey 404-885-6800

Infected/Affected Support Group. Tuesdays, 6:30 pm. Absolutely Positive+ Inc. 770-642-6646

Infected Men's Group. Mondays, 7 pm. Absolutely Positive+ Inc. 770-642-6646

Living Well With HIV. Group for persons with HIV interested in self-improvement as they learn to live well with HIV. Positive Impact. Call Bryce Smith, 404-589-9040 ext. 307

Long Term Survivors. For persons infected five of more years with HIV. Positive Impact. Call Bryce Smith, 404-589-9040 ext. 307

Meditations for the New Millenium. Tuesdays, 7 pm. Group for persons affected by HIV on many different styles of meditation. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., Ste. 605. 404-627-8708

Men's Discussion Group. Every Thursday, 7 pm. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 6th Floor. 404-523-7500

Newly Diagnosed. Thursdays, 6-8 pm. Absolute Wellness. BRAC Center, 2581 Piedmont Rd., Ste A-1000. Lindbergh Plaza (Sydney Marcus side). 404-264-9011

People with AIDS. 4th Monday, 7 pm. AIDGwinnett. First United Methodist Church of Covington, 1113 Conyers St., Covington. 770-962-8396

Positive Attitude. Tuesdays, 7-9 pm. HIV-positive gay and bisexual men. Absolute Wellness. BRAC Center, 2581 Piedmont Rd., Ste. A-1000. Lindbergh Plaza. 404-264-9011

Positively Living Support Group. Mondays, 7:30 pm. AIDS Survival Project, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-874-7926

Potter's House. Mondays, 12 noon. Day program. Absolutely Positive+ Inc. 770-642-6646

Psychotherapy & Personal Growth. Long-term psychotherapy group. Call Bryce Smith, 404-589-9040 ext. 307

P.U.F.F. 2nd Sunday. Support group for infected/affected HIV/AIDS females. Putting Unified Female First. Absolute Wellness. BRAC Center, 2581 Piedmont Rd., Ste. A-1000. Lindbergh Plaza (Sydney Marcus Side). Call Fay Gordon, 404-264-9011

PWA Support Group. Thursdays, 7:30 pm. AIDGwinnett, 725 Scenic Hwy, Lawrenceville. P.O. Box 884, Lawrenceville, GA 30046-0884770-962-8396

Risk Reduction. On-going group exploring issues of substance abuse and how it relates to unhealthy behavior. Positive Impact. Mollye, 404-589-9040 ext. 304

Serenity Group of AA. Monday, 5:45 & 8 p.m. Tuesday, 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, 5:45, 7 & 8 p.m. Thursday, 5:45 p.m. Friday, 5:45 & 8 p.m. Saturday, 6:30 & 8 p.m. Sunday, 4:45 p.m. Meets at the Galano Clubhouse at 285 Dutch Valley Rd.

Sex & Relationship Addiction Recovery Groups. Gay meetings Monday and Wednesday evenings. Mixed meetings daily throughout metro Atlanta. 404-239-8048, www.sca-recovery.org

Straight Spouse Support Network. 3rd Sunday, 2:30-4 pm. For those whose partners are gay. Cathedral of St. Philips, 2744 Peachtree Rd. 770-649-6368

Women Living with HIV. Group for women living with HIV. Call Sabrina, 404-589-9040 ext. 302

Women's Discussion Group. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7 pm. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 6th floor. 404-523-7500

Women's HIV/AIDS Support Group. Tuesdays, 5:15 pm. Closed confidential group, limited spaces. AIDS Survival Project, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-874-7926

Yoga & Meditation for HIV/AIDS. Thursdays, 5:00-6:15 pm. Donation requested. Jaya Devi Yoga Studio, 312C N Highland Ave. 404-688-6757

savannah

Alcoholics Anonymous. Wednesdays, 8 pm. First City Network office. 912-223-4255

CASE. Weekly meetings of HIV/AIDS support group. Richard Pfister, 912-659-AIDS.

Gay Youth Group. 3rd Thursday, 7 pm. First City Network office, third floor. Gene 800-484-1913, pin 5353

HIV/AIDS Support Group. Mondays, 5:30 pm. Phoenix Place. 912-231-0123

HIV-positive Substance Abuse. Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9 am-noon. Phoenix Place. 912-231-0123.

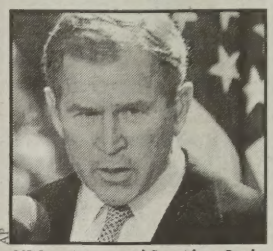
My Brothaz Home. 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 6 pm. Support group for HIV-positive African American males. Call Mark Douglas, 912-790-7300

Project Azuka. Thursdays, 10:30 am. Women's HIV-positive support group. Call Pandora Singleton, 912-233-6733

medical report

Condom use may not prevent spread of STDs, fed report says

WASHINGTON—A National Institutes of Health report released July 20 shows that latex condoms can reduce the spread of HIV and gonorrhea, but there is not enough evidence to say for certain that condoms protect against other sexually transmitted diseases, the *Washington Post* reported. The report said researchers could not draw conclusions about the adequacy of condoms in reducing the risk of disease "other than HIV transmission in men and women, and gonorrhea in men." AIDS activists had distributed the report July 19, contending that the Bush administration would use it to promote an abstinence-only agenda, the Associated Press reported. An estimated 12 million Americans become infected with STDs annually, according to the surgeon general, the *Post* reported. The activists argue that abstinence warnings are not as effective in preventing sexually transmitted diseases as encouraging the use of barrier contraceptives such as condoms, according to AP.



AP

AIDS activists said President Bush may use a new federal report questioning the effectiveness of condoms in battling STDs in an effort to bolster his calls for abstinence-only programs.

Drug-resistant HIV in newly infected patients on the rise

NEW YORK—A number of recent studies show that drug-resistant HIV is the cause of a rising number of new HIV infections worldwide, according to Medscape.com, a medical information Web site. Figures from seven surveys of four European countries, Quebec, nine North American cities, and Madrid show that drug-resistant HIV causes up to one quarter of all new infections. Studies show that in Switzerland 5 percent of all new HIV infections are caused by the drug-resistant virus, compared with 10 percent in France, 13 percent in Germany, and 14 percent in the United Kingdom. A study of new HIV cases in nine North American cities showed that drug-resistant HIV caused 16.5 percent of infections. In Quebec, 21 percent of all new HIV cases were caused by the virus, while 26-percent of the cases in Madrid were linked to resistant HIV, according to the studies. The drug-resistant HIV responsible for the new infections was shown to be resistant to at least one standard anti-HIV drug, the most common being AZT. Researchers estimate that of all new HIV infections linked to drug-resistant virus, more than one third are caused by HIV that is resistant to more than one medication.

Company files for approval of 20-minute HIV test under study

BETHLEHEM, Pa.—OraSure Technologies last week filed with the U.S. Food & Drug Administration for pre-market approval of its HIV test that is capable of detecting HIV antibodies in just 20 minutes, Business Wire reported. The test, called OraQuick, can use oral fluids, whole blood, blood serum or plasma samples to scan for HIV antibodies. Orasure filed a pre-market application for the serum and whole-blood applications only; the company plans to file for plasma and oral fluid applications in the fourth quarter of 2001. "Critical decisions about treatment depend on the availability of accurate, immediate HIV test results, and we expect OraQuick to fill that need," said OraSure CEO Robert D. Thompson. The drug is undergoing clinical trials in the U.S.

Campaign launched to slow meningitis among Toronto gays

TORONTO, Canada—Public health officials in Toronto confirmed last week that five cases of meningitis have been reported among gay and bisexual men over the last two months, killing two, Gay.com reported. The city has seen 22 cases of the disease since January, up from last year's rate of 16 for the same period, according to the *Toronto Sun*. Robert Trow, program coordinator with the Hassle Free Clinic in Toronto, said this is the first time there has been a noted increase of meningitis among gay men. Toronto Public Health is seeking the assistance of the Ontario health ministry to provide vaccines to combat the spread of the disease. A campaign to inform gays of the increased risks and promote precautionary measures has been launched through posters and other advertising, the *Sun* reported. Meningitis is an infection causing inflammation of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord and can be caused either by a virus or bacteria. Although the initial symptoms of viral and bacterial meningitis are similar, the viral version is less serious and symptoms usually disappear within two weeks. The bacterial version requires immediate attention and can be life-threatening. Meningitis is spread through saliva, usually by kissing or sharing food, drinks, cigarettes or any sexual acts involving saliva contact.

Drug breaks harmful to HIV treatment, AIDS experts say

CHICAGO—A group of about 50 AIDS treatment experts said that structured HIV treatment interruptions—stopping drug therapy for brief periods of time—do not work, ABCNews.com reported. The announcement came July 18 at the 2001 Sessions of the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care. Studies show that the so-called drug holidays have poor results and often make the health of those requiring the HIV medications worse, said Renslow Steerer of Cook County Hospital in Chicago. "People have gotten sick again. There have even been some deaths," he said. Treatment interruptions have gained the attention of many HIV-positive people hoping to reduce the debilitating side effects of chronic nausea and diarrhea. But the treatment experts, while advocating further studies into the effects of treatment interruption, warn that study evidence to date shows that the drug breaks are more harmful than helpful.

—From staff and wire reports

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atlantis Music Conference 2001

Odd musician out

Atlantis Music Conference brings together a vibrant collection of musicians, including participants in a queer showcase

by JIM FARMER

Four years ago, a trio of Atlanta-based music industry bigwigs decided the time was right for Atlanta to host a music conference. The goal was to illustrate that the South has a vibrant, yet somewhat under-recognized, music base.

From that grew the Atlantis Music Showcase, launched in 1998.

"We wanted to show what a strong representation the South had music-wise. Look at all the performers from the area—REM, the Indigo Girls, the B-52s, TLC and so many more," says Atlantis publicist Tara Murphy.

This August, Atlanta plays host to the fourth conference, which features more than 200 bands from all over the country playing in various intown music venues. Besides four days of music, the conference also offers numerous panels, parties and more.

Over the years, the line-up has featured many gay performers. "We have always tried to showcase a diverse array of artists," Murphy says.

This year marks the inaugural Odd Man Out, a showcase mainly for queer musicians that happens as part of the conference. It was established by local out musician Doria Roberts, the organizer of the mostly annual Queerstock tour.

"I performed during the South by Southwest conference in Austin earlier this year and found they were doing a queer-themed showcase with [Indigo Girl] Amy Ray, the Butchies and Melissa Ferrick," Roberts explains. "So when I got back to Atlanta, I called the organizers at Atlantis to see if they would be interested in holding a similar showcase."

According to Roberts, getting the acts lined up wasn't easy. "I had to handpick them," she says. "I had worked with many of the artists before, and knew they'd be perfect for the show. But for some of the artists, I wasn't sure if they were queer and if so, if they were out. I'm sure there are probably some performers in the Atlantis Music Conference that I missed."

Besides Roberts, artists and bands in the Odd Man Out show include Divinity, Edie Carey, Yvonne Doll of The Locals, The Garden Verge, Mark Islam, and Angela Motter.

The organizers at Atlantis liked the idea of Odd Man Out so much that they decided to hold an additional event—a panel discussion called Breaking the Stereotypes.

"The panel was designed to dis-

➢ Continued on Page 16

INFO

Atlantis Music Conference
Aug. 1-4
Venues and prices vary
770-499-8600
www.atlantis.com

Odd Man Out Showcase
Aug. 3, 8 p.m.
Red Light Café
553 Amsterdam Ave.
$7
404-874-7828
www.redlightcafe.com

Queerstock Fund-Raiser
Aug. 4,
2 p.m.-8 p.m.
My Sister's Room
222 E. Howard Ave.,
Decatur
$8
404-370-1990

Gay recording artists Mark Islam (below) and Edie Carey (above) will perform at the Atlantis Music Conference's Odd Man Out Showcase, Aug. 3, at the Red Light Café

Doria Roberts is the driving force behind 'Odd Man Out,' a showcase for queer and otherwise 'pigeon-holed' musicians. It's part of the Atlantis Music Conference that takes place in Atlanta Aug. 1-4.

appts.

sunday, july 29

Award-winning drag queen Bubba D. Licious will emcee the fifth annual **Hair Affair,** an event that features Atlanta's top salons performing makeovers. If the event's promotional art is any indication, some attendees may look like they've never laid eyes on a bottle of conditioner. Tickets $15. **The Park Pavilion, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. 404-870-6215**

monday, july 30

Well-known openly gay author **E. Lynn Harris** will read from his new novel "Any Way the Wind Blows." In the book, John "Basil" Henderson continues as the good-looking *homme fatale* at the top of his game, playing men and women. Harris, the author of six novels, presents works that are of particular importance to African-Americans and gays. The story lines address issues faced by members of both communities, while offering an entertaining blend of humor and intrigue. $12. **14th Street Playhouse, 173 14th St., 7:30 p.m. 404-733-5000**

E. Lynn Harris reads from his novel 'Any Way the Wind Blows' at the 14th Street Playhouse on July 30.

friday, aug. 2

Red Chair Theater is mainly known for its Comedy Response Unit improv shows, but the non-profit group has branched out into dramatic productions this year. One of their new performances is the regional premiere of **"The M.O. of M.I. (The Modus Operandi of Male Intimacy)."** The suspense thriller by Aaron Brown is about a gay couple who take an attractive performance artist into their home. The usual strains of a gay relationship are compounded by several plot twists. The story raises issues of fidelity, manipulation, trust and ethics. Opens Aug 2; playwright Brown will attend Aug 5. **Red Chair Theater, 662 11th St. NW. 404-872-4242**

multiple engagements

Originally produced at Chicago's Tony Award-winning Victory Gardens Theatre, **"Before My Eyes"** is the tender and funny story of a boy who grows up to discover he's gay and the parents who grow up along with him. This performance is the regional premiere of the play, which was written by Joel Drake Johnson. Tickets $12-$15. **The Discovery Arena, Neighborhood Playhouse, 430 West Trinity Pl., Decatur. 404-373-5311**

Robert Ray's **Cirque du Cabaret,** which premiered in March, returns to Libby's Cabaret with seven female vocalists, a five-piece orchestra and Ray himself, who will act as band leader and emcee. Expect to hear music made famous by Patti Labelle and Garth Brooks as well as Broadway, jazz and gospel standards. Tickets $25. July 27-29. **Libby's Cabaret, 404-237-1943**

—Compiled by Erin O'Briant

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atlanta theater calendar

Gladys Knight stars in 'Smokey Joe's Café,' playing July 31 to Aug. 5 at the Fox Theatre, 660 Peachtree St. 404-252-8960.

ALWAYS... PATSY CLINE Thru July 29. A tribute to Cline that features 25 of her most memorable songs. Georgia Ensemble Theatre, 770-641-1260

AMADEUS Thru Aug 12. Story of Amadeus' unseating of Antonio Salieri as the most famous composer in Vienna. Georgia Shakespeare Festival. Conant Center at Oglethorpe University. 404-264-0020. www.gashakespeare.org.

GINNY & LOVE LETTERS Thru Sept 2. The first play is about a man waiting for a bus; the second is a love story. Historic Canton Theatre, 171 Main St., Canton. 770-704-0755.

THE GOOD DOCTOR Thru Aug 19. Homage by Neil Simon to Anton Chekhov, tied together by a narrator playing Chekhov. Actors Theatre of Atlanta, 404-556-2828.

M.O. OF M.I. (THE MODUS OPERANDI OF MALE INTIMACY) Opens Aug 2. The regional premiere of a suspense thriller by Aaron Brown about a gay couple who take an attractive performance artist into their home. Red Chair Theater, 662 11th St. NW. 404-872-4242.

THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP Thru Aug 25. Tag-team vaudeville farce with heaps of cross-dressing. Actor's Express. 404-607-SHOW.

PREACHER FROM THE BLACK LAGOON Thru Aug 5. A musical play that takes the audience through an evening of salvation, song and swamp-water. 7 Stages Theater, 1105 Euclid Ave. 404-523-7647.

SMOKE ON THE MOUNTAIN Thru Aug 12. A family of quirky musicians entertain the congregation of a small, rural Baptist church during the Depression. Theatre in the Square, 11 Whitlock Ave, Marietta. 770-422-8369.

THE SPIRIT IN THE BOTTLE & THE FROG PRINCE Thru Aug 5. An ingenious cleaning man sweeps the audience away with his wisecracking characters. For adults and children. Center for Puppetry Arts, 1404 Spring St. 404-873-3089.

TAN SHOES & PINK SHOELACES Thru Aug 19. Tom Edwards' hilarious musical revue. Neighborhood Playhouse, 430 West Trinity Place, Decatur. 404-373-5311.

TWO ROOMS Thru Aug 18. Arresting work centers on the experience of hostages and those left behind. Actors Theatre of Atlanta, 4075 Paces Ferry Rd. 404-262-3032, ext. 1283.

THE WINTER'S TALE Thru Aug 10. The Shakespeare classic directed by Jessica Phelps West. Georgia Shakespeare Festival, 4484 Peachtree Rd. NE, 404-504-3400, www.gashakespeare.org.

—Compiled by Erin O'Briant

To add a listing, e-mail eobriant@sovo.com, call 404-876-1819, ext. 20, or fax to 404-876-2709.

on stage

THEATER REVIEWS

by JIM FARMER

Gay classic returns

The pioneering 1968 play 'Boys in the Band' comes to Cabbagetown

The new theater company Histrionics has chosen a controversial play to announce its arrival—Mart Crowley's **BOYS IN THE BAND**.

Crowley's gay drama, considered revolutionary when it was first performed back in 1968, revolves around a party for one of its characters. In all, nine men—including a supposedly straight roommate—gather at the birthday bash, and as the alcohol flows, the men bicker, reveal secrets and confront each other.

The gay classic 'Boys in the Band' is playing in Atlanta.

Histrionics was started by friends and Atlantans Stephen Sisson and Will Ennis, who collaborated together long ago when they both lived in Columbus. They have also been active in local theater. Sisson's credits include work on a production of "Torch Song Trilogy" at Neighborhood Playhouse many seasons ago.

"'Boys in the Band' has always been one of my favorite plays," says the openly bisexual Sisson. "It has so much validity. What we learn from it is where we came from and where we are headed."

The play debuted a year before the legendary Stonewall riot that activists today say kicked off the gay rights movement. The movie version of the play came out in 1970. "It was the beginning of the modern gay movement," says Sisson. "'Virginia Woolf' had just happened and the language didn't have to be sugarcoated.

In his take, director Sisson has moved the setting from Manhattan to Atlanta and dated the action to 1976. "I was using Southern accents with my actors so I thought it would be intriguing," he notes. "I thought it would be a good idea for Harold to have a birthday the same time America was. I knew, though, that this story had to remain pre-AIDS."

Sisson stars as birthday boy Harold, and Ennis plays Michael, the weekend's host. Of the play's nine cast members, six are gay, two are bisexual and one is straight, Sisson says.

Histrionic's version also includes some frontal nudity. "I thought it would make the play more interesting and the package prettier," Sisson notes.

Otherwise, he didn't alter much from the original production. But while most look at Crowley's drama as an important gay work, many others find it dated and full of self-loathing.

"In the play's defense, just try going to a party and not running into an Emory [the play's ultra-effeminate character], or one of the other types," Sisson says. "And so much of today's catchwords in the gay community originate from 'Boys in the Band.'"

Sisson doesn't know the last time the play was mounted in Atlanta. "I know the Alliance was supposed to do it in the '70s but it didn't happen," he recalls. "I have had people tell me they have seen it here, but no one can remember when. It's been a while, though."

Sisson doesn't want to give the impression that his company will be doing all gay productions. "Obviously, we want to do gay work, but I don't want to be pigeonholed," he explains. "I like to think of us as the 'family' theater, doing diverse work."

The company does not have a permanent location yet, but is performing "Boys in the Band" at Cabbagetown's Art Farm. "I think that arena really suits the show. What we hope is to choose the venue according to the piece we are doing," Sisson says.

Histrionics will announce its season line-up later this summer. One show that they are interested in, although it would be expensive, is "The Ritz." "That is a great show that has disappeared," Sisson says. "It would be a lot of fun to stage it."

INFO

'Boys in the Band'
Art Farm
835 Wylie St.
Thru Aug 31
404-762-1533

out on the town

SCENES FROM ATLANTA NIGHTLIFE

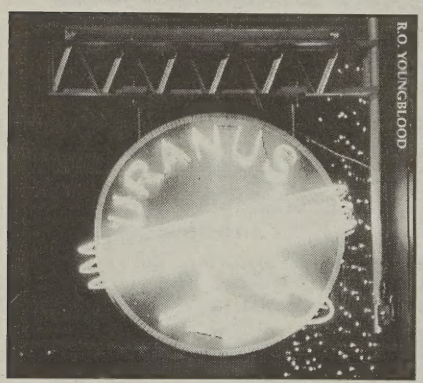
by ERIN O'BRIANT

A dyke in Buckhead

Even with a six-pack of homos in tow, a midweek trip to Buckhead can be a fearsome journey

At first, the heterosexuals didn't behave themselves very well.

After I walked through a pleasant whirlygig of bubbles and into the new Buckhead club, an unfriendly woman in tight plaid pants wrapped an orange tag that read **URANUS** around my wrist. I crossed the dance floor with my two dyke friends and leaned against the bar. The male half of a straight couple was arguing vociferously with the bartender, a middle-aged woman wearing pigtails who delighted her audience by spreading her scantily clad body across the bar to fight up close with the drunken customer.



Uranus isn't every lesbian's favorite planet.

They were obviously yelling at one another, but even two feet away I couldn't make out a word—thanks to the exceptionally loud music. The bartender threw the customer's beer away indignantly. The drunkard's woman held him back, apparently pleading with him not to smash the bartender's jaw in. They were bounced. The scene was what we homos like to call "tacky."

Then I was served a surprisingly decent glass of Merlot. The bartender perked up a little after her inebriated client left and my mood improved, too.

Here's how I got to this strange place: The new dance club occupying the former Swingers space in Buckhead had offered a friend of a friend a free "party"—that is, admission and drinks for an hour—so we ventured into the Land of Heterosexuals to partake of free libations and find out if Club Uranus was as gay as it sounded. Uh, not exactly.

We perched on barstools outside the club and drank our wine while listening to bumpin' dance music coming from the DJ booth. The man in the booth spun old dance favorites like Salt 'n' Pepa's "Push It" and The Time's "The Bird" as well as some newer tunes that inspired me to dance a few steps on the sidewalk.

The evening did feature some quasi-lesbianism, het style.

First, we witnessed some girl-on-girl dancing. Well, "grinding" might be a more accurate term for what the two mini-skirted sorority girls on the dance floor were doing. Too bad both participants shamelessly rubbed themselves against their male dates as soon as the song was over.

Later, the disc jockey excitedly promoted girl-on-girl Jell-O wrestling, but we didn't stay for the show because our bed times had come and gone. Besides, straight girls playing dyke for their boyfriends aren't particularly interesting.

The club experience was fairly pleasant, though, marred only by the disc jockey's repeated exhortations for "all the ladies in the house" to come "take a free shot in Uranus" and his loud invitations to people outside to "come in Uranus for free." He sounded to me like a slow 8-year-old with a Toys 'R' Us microphone and a dim understanding of his excretory functions, but he seemed to find his own jokes quite amusing.

The main problem with visiting Buckhead, in addition to the Disney-like quality of its many bars and the often horrific fashion statements made by the would-be sexy, is that it doesn't feel safe to be queer there.

Even if the music is good and some straight girls are grinding, I still don't trust the heterosexuals to behave themselves.

INFO

Club Uranus
3049 Peachtree Road
404-816-9931

calendar

drag/cabaret/ comedy

BACKSTREET ATLANTA Thur & Sun 1 a.m.; Fri & Sat 11:30 p.m.: Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret. Sun 9 p.m.: The Armorettes. Backstreet Atlanta, 845 Peachtree. 404-873-1986.

BURKHART'S Sun 7:30 & 10:30 p.m.: the Gospel Girls. Mon-Thur: Karaoke.

1492-F Piedmont. 404-872-4403.

CIRQUE DU CABARET July 27-29. Robert Ray's cabaret event returns with seven female vocalists, a five-piece orchestra and Ray himself, who will act as band leader and emcee. Libby's Cabaret, 404-237-1943.

COMEDY RESPONSE UNIT Fri & Sat 10:30 p.m. Improv unit interacts with the audience to create comedy. Red Chair Theater, 662 11th St. 404-872-4242.

LE BUZZ Tues & Thur 10 p.m. Karaoke hosted by Jonathan. 585 Franklin Rd., Marietta.

770-424-1337.

METRO Mon: Peg's "Mouth of the South Live!" Tues: Latin Night. Wed: Regina Sims presents Silhouettes of Illusion. Sat: Scott Davis. 1080 Peachtree. 404-874-9869.

NICKIEMOTO'S Mon 8:30 p.m. "Drag-Amaki" with EJ and Chilli Pepper show accompanies dinner. 990 Piedmont Ave. 404-253-2010.

SAMBUCA JAZZ CAFÉ Live jazz nightly. 3102 Piedmont Rd. 404-237-5299.

TRAXX Mon 10:30 p.m. & 12:30 a.m. With hostess Sophia McIntosh. The Warehouse, 306 Luckie St. 404-681-4422.

galleries/ exhibits

ART INSTITUTE OF ATLANTA Thru Sept 15. "Visions: Faculty Showcase 2001" features work by the college's faculty. 6600 Peachtree Dunwoody Rd. NE. 770-394-8300.

ATLANTA CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER Thru Aug 18. "Out of Order: Mapping Social Space." 535 Means St. 404-688-1970.

ATLANTA COLLEGE OF ART Thru Aug 19. "Tire Fires and a Talking Car." 1280 Peachtree St. NE. 404-733-5233.

BARBARA ARCHER GALLERY Thru Aug 31. "Define Drawing," a collection of drawings from self-taught artists. The FloatAway Building, 1123 Zonolite Rd., Ste. 27. 404-815-1545.

CALLANWOLDE GALLERY July 27-Aug 31. Etchings by Laura Bell. 980 Briarcliff Rd. N.E. 404-872-5338.

GALLERY ELEVEN 50 Thru Aug 11. "American Eyes" explores American culture through photography and painting. 1150-B Peachtree St. 404-874-0428.

MICHELANGELO: DRAWINGS AND OTHER TREASURES Thru Sept 2. The exhibit contains many works by Italy's most famous artist, Michelangelo Buonarroti, that have never before been displayed in this country. High Museum of Art, Woodruff Arts Center, 1280 Peachtree St. 404-733-4444.

MOMUS Thru Aug 8. Maura Vazakas. Abstract and figurative elements tell winding stores. 75 Bennett St., Ste. D-2. 404-355-4180.

RAYMOND LAWRENCE GALLERY Thru July 29. Jeff Williams, "La Bonne Vie." 75 Bennett St., Ste. M-1. 404-352-5058.

SANDLER HUDSON GALLERY Thru Sept 8. "Repetition" group exhibit includes a variety of artist interpreting the theme. 831A Peachtree Rd. 404-350-8180.

TRINITY GALLERY Thru Aug 30. Abstract Impressionism exhibit promises nourishment for aesthetic tastes and fodder for debate. 315 E Paces Ferry Rd NE. 404-237-0370.

—Compiled by Erin O'Briant

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Queer artists find Atlantis

➢ Continued from Page 13

cuss the issues of pigeonholing in the music industry—not just the pigeonholing and stereotyping of queer artists but of women and artists of color, too," Roberts explains. "I thought it would be a unique opportunity to reach the industry and possibly serve as a tutorial for artists working and creating 'outside the lines.'

"I think increasing the visibility of queer artists will actually decrease the stigma associated with being an out artist," she adds.

The panel is comprised mostly of behind-the-scenes figures; Roberts is one of the few actual musicians participating. She will discuss the obstacles of producing Queerstock.

"We thought her input would be vital," Murphy says. "Whether you are gay, straight, urban, country or whatever, you probably have your own stereotypes that you are dealing with on a daily basis. This is a great way to address those and learn how others are dealing."

A fund-raiser at My Sister's Room at the end of the conference will help Roberts raise money for a new Queerstock CD.

"Since the Queerstock tour is taking a hiatus this year, I decided to finally get the Queerstock compilation CD project going," Roberts explains. The CD, tentatively titled "Queer Stock, Queer Soup," will be released on National Coming Out Day, Oct. 11, in seven different cities including Atlanta.

"Each show will be raising money for the corresponding queer youth agency in that city," Roberts says. All the proceeds from the fund-raiser will go towards the production of the CD.

The Atlantis Music Conference is considered one of the country's major alternative pop-rock conferences, according to Murphy, and is also a platform for discovering new talent. Murphy says that since the conference began in 1998, more than 30 bands have been signed. "One of the wonderful aspects is being able to discover the performers for yourself," she says. "Last year I heard a great band one night and they were literally signed the next day."

Roberts says she likes the conference for its independent spirit. "Atlantis is a great event for independent artists. I love the fact that all these artists are here at the same time."

Artist Edie Carey had worked with Roberts before and was receptive to the idea of Odd Man Out. "I had done Queerstock and it was a great experience," she says. "What's so great about [Doria] is that she doesn't just line up queer acts. The music comes first with her."

Mark Islam, who is also participating in "Odd Man Out," says the visibility is priceless. "These kinds of forums are great," he says. "There is so much more music out there than what you hear on the radio."

Roberts agrees.

"When it comes down to out, I think there are two types of music, good and bad," says Roberts. "Events like these show people that they can relate to queer music."

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atlanta eats out

by JONATHAN LERNER

Beautiful but bland

A new Japanese eatery is too American

The Trend Spotter and I went to Toco Hills Shopping Center for dinner at the Collard Green Café.

That's the reincarnation, as a sit-down restaurant, of what was a take-away counter in a grocery store. It always had a good rep for home-style Southern cooking.

But it was a Friday night, so we were feeling the need of something a bit more pulled together and festive than the bare-bones fluorescent storefront we found.

We decided to return another time, for lunch maybe, and instead strolled over to EDO, a new Japanese restaurant.

From the outside, Edo is as nondescript as the rest of Toco Hills. I know, they've just made an effort to dress the place up. But why bother? A strip mall is a strip mall, no matter what it's wearing.

On the inside, however, Edo is a truly beautiful space. The slightly off-kilter interior architecture, the color palette of muted golds, plums and mochas, and the jazzy murals all refer to the lighthearted cubist paintings of Fernand Leger.

There's a liquor bar and a sushi bar. Besides regular tables, there are semi-private tatami rooms where you sit on mats around low tables and other semi-private ones where the tables have built-in grills. It's comfortable and visually interesting.

We found the food less inspiring.

The menu includes a long list of appetizers, most of them traditional items. The main dishes come as dinners with soup and a salad. The soup was an inoffensive but also unexciting sweet miso broth with a few tiny cubes of tofu and slivers of succulent seaweed. The salad was mostly iceberg lettuce with a nice-enough ginger-carrot dressing.

Edo is a rather Americanized Japanese eatery. There's nothing wrong with it being so user-friendly—but it felt unnecessarily adjusted to an American palate.

Take the restaurant's salmon teriyaki diner. The grilled salmon was glazed with a sweet brown sauce and sat in more of the same. It was accompanied by some chilled noodles in a sweet pink sauce, some lightly pickled bok choy and a quarter of honeydew topped with a maraschino cherry.

The bok choy pickle was certainly an authentic touch. But a maraschino cherry?

Too much of the food here is sweet. That was one of the problems with an appetizer of goma-ae. This is, usually, a wonderfully light and simple thing, spinach with toasted sesame seeds and a touch of soy sauce. At Edo—aside from the leggy spinach itself, for which there is no excuse—it was blanketed with a thick, sweet peanut sauce better suited to a dish of ice cream.

My plate of tempura vegetables didn't have anything sweet about it, but everything was astonishingly oily and it was served barely warm.

The highlight of our meal was an appetizer plate of eight chestnut-sized steamed shrimp dumplings.

Service was fine and the prices are good. Lunch, where most items are around $7, looks to be a bargain. But overall, we were disappointed.

food file

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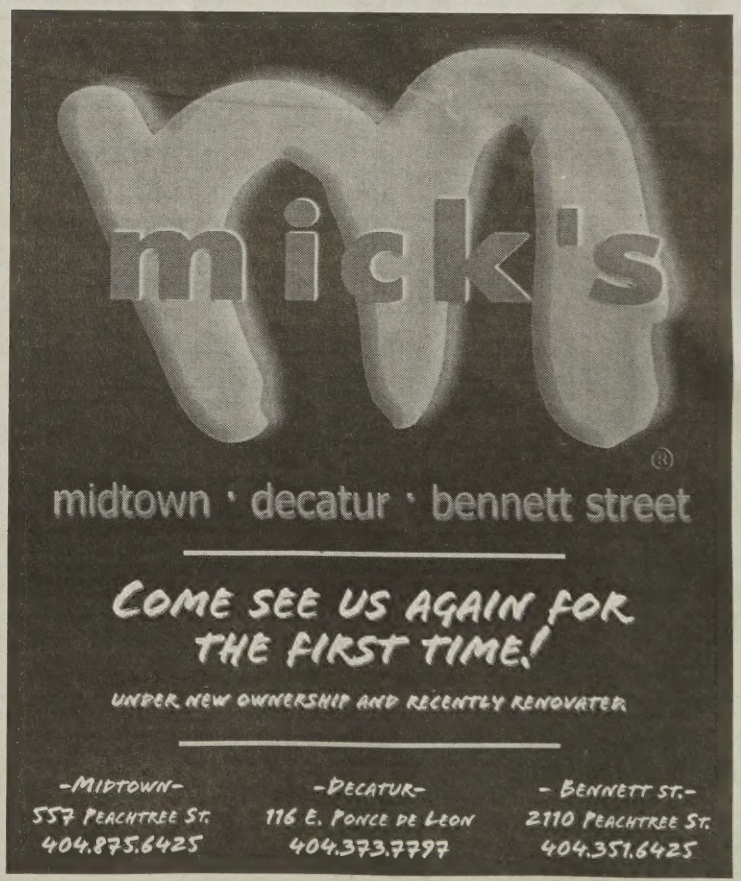

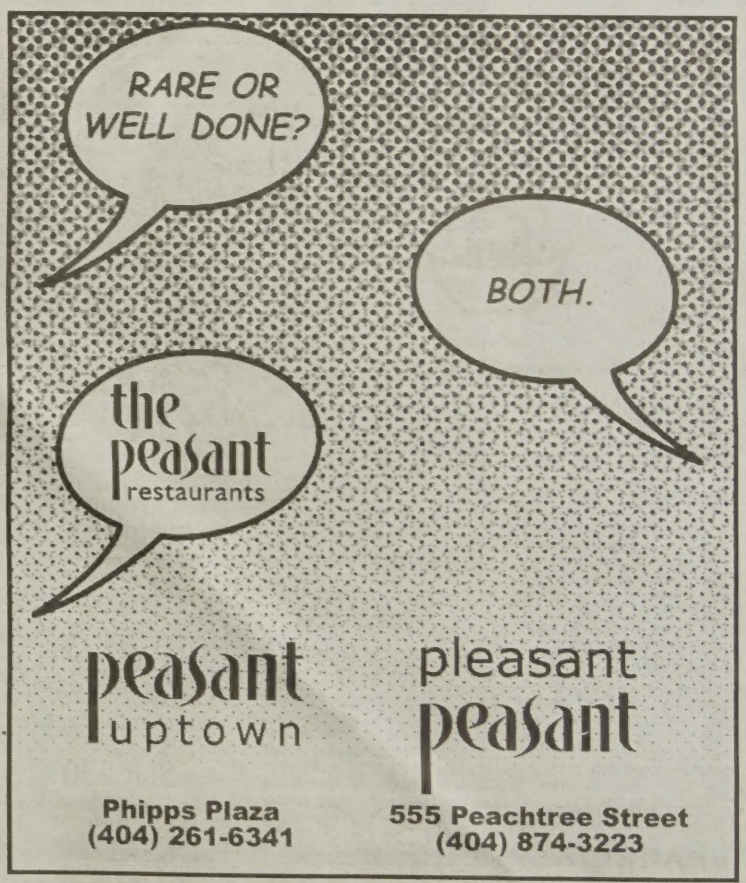

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Clairvoyant medium,past life channeling, soul health and environment retrievals. Detoxification intuitive. Reiki master healer. Paj Youngblood 404-893-9140.

Painting

All About The House. Painting interior/exterior, commercial, residential. Additions, decks, etc. References available. 404-315-1985.

Pets-Free

FIV + female cat. 2 years old. Seeks permanent home. All shots and spayed. Pastel calico. Contact Josie at 404-385-2299.

Real Estate

PRIDE REALTY

Metro Atlanta Rentals
We Offer All Your Rental Needs.
"Because There's No Place Like Home."
Pride Realty, Inc. 404-352-5570
www.PrideRealty.com

Real Estate For Rent

VAHI large 1BR/duplex CHVAC, W/D included. Dishwasher, fenced yard, pets considered, walk everywhere, private.Rentintown.com 404-822-6454.

CAPITAL VIEW

SOUTHWEST ATLANTA: 3BR renovated craftsman bungalow with oversized lot, wrap around porch, gleaming wood floors for pioneer tenants interested in diversity. $950/mo 404-233-0483.

GORGEOUS LOFT

Castleberry Hill, 2BR/1BA, expose brick, high ceilings, secure parking roof top patio, pool. Avail 8/01 $1150mo. 404-308-0711

N.DeKalb Mall

2BR/1BA home, clean, hardwood floors, fireplace, remodeled kitchen, attic, fenced yard,outside dog ok, $1200/mo + utilities. 404-728-0818.

Midtown. Palmer House penthouse w/huge rooftop deck, views, 2BR/1BA plus loft, hardwoods, fireplace, washer and dryer off street parking. $1400/mo. 404-822-6990

CONDOS FOR RENT

BUCKHEAD'S #1 HIGHRISE
CUSTOM 2BR/2BA
"Proudly representing our DECATUR family"
Pride Realty Inc. 404-352-5570.
"Because there's no place like home."
www.PrideRealty.com

Real Estate For Rent-APTS.

VA.HIGHLANDS. Luxury 2BR/1.5BA renovated 20's Townhouse, livingroom Den, 2/fireplaces, C/H/A, W/D, Gourmet kitchen, off-street parking, fenced yard, alarm $1590/mo. No pets. 404-634-0151.

Candler Park

Terrace apt in grand 2/story, 1BR/1BA, breakfast room, walking distance to little 5pts. $650 mo. Shelly, 14 West 404-874-6357 x254

Morningside

Duplex 2BR/1BA, large living room, hardwood floors, private patio, stack W/D,$1050mo. Shelly, 14 West 404-874-6357 x254

Inman Park

Historic Apt. Bldg, 3BR/2BA, high ceilings, hardwood floors, private courtyard, pool, $1200/mo. Shelly, 14 West 404-874-6357 x254

Druid Hills

Triplex, 2BR/1BA, living room, eat-in kitchen, W/D on premises, backyard facing Candler Park, $875/mo Shelly, 14 West 404-874-6357 x254

Woodland Hills

Large 1BR/1BA, kitchen w/breakfast area, French doors, private patio, new carpeting, freshly painted. $700/mo. Shelly, 14 West 404-874-6357 x254

VA-HIGHLAND-APT

in classic 1920's bungalow, 1BR/1BA heart pine floors, W/D super location, $825 monthly, Shelly, 14 West 404-874-6357 x254

Quiet 1BR/1BA apt above det. garage, res area near Stockbridge 25 min. from midtown. $495.00 mo. includes utilities. Allen 770-507-5270.

Real Estate for Rent-Condos

DOWNTOWN STUDIO, 1 or 2 BR secure bldg, all utilities , 1 block from from Marta, screened in porch. Avail 7/20. $1000.00 mo. 770-650-3910. leave message.

NEW LOFT

Piedmont Park West: Avail 8/1, granite, stainless, canac kitchen, W/D, hardwoods, parking, slate tub shower 1BR/1BA midtown views. 678-595-6196.

Dramatic, 2BR/2BA, great midtown location, secure covered parking, W/D, fireplace, separate shower/master, excellent roommate plan. 678-520-8054.

Piedmont Park

Midtown 3BR/2BA intown living across from the park. Within walking of dining and shops. Traditional building with unique interiors feature. Garage parking, fireplace, balcony skylights and more.$1790/mo 404-786-3653

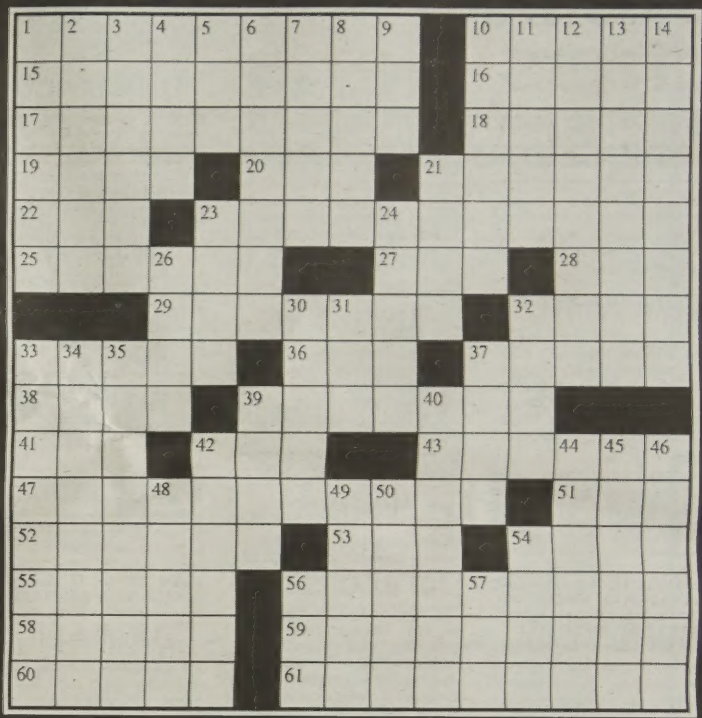
Real Estate For Rent-House

SAFE-SECURE

6901 Clearlake Court off Winters Chapel Rd. At Peeler Rd. Split level, 1375 sq ft. Mint condition, Quiet dead-end street street, 3BR/2BA, 2/car garage, fence, lawn service, MARTA, 5/minutes to I-285, $1350/mo. No smokers 770-457-8165.

➢ Continued on Page 20

Q Puzzle



'It's hard!'

ACROSS

1 Bathhouse
10 Like Jeff Stryker?
15 Abscissas' counterparts
16 Word on some condom wrappers
17 Regional family magazine
18 Cram, e.g.
19 One may draw blood
20 It may be made of shells
21 It's 95% Roman Catholic
22 Announcement from the cockpit
23 Family magazine
25 Henri's motive
27 Stud site
28 Member of the familia
29 Like Larry Kramer, often
32 Man in a skirt, perhaps
33 Family magazine
36 Family magazine
37 Family magazine
38 To ___ (just so)
39 ___ Sea
41 Kook's title
42 Regional family magazine
43 List shortener
47 Family magazine
51 One may be bookmarked
52 "Invisible Life" novelist
53 Vocal accompaniment to a devilish grin
54 Prick
55 He often screws actors
56 Regional family magazine
58 One who comes out because of a rubber
59 It may be nonessential
60 Rear follower
61 Spanish-American flamenco dancer

DOWN

1 "The Passionate State of Mind" author
2 Periodical boners
3 Substitute pronunciation of the Tetragrammaton
4 "The View" cohost
5 Stock in trade of Controlled Demolition Inc.
6 Coming down hard?
7 Beef on the hoof
8 Good thing to escape from
9 It may be kissed
10 Rita Mae Brown's "Rita Will", for one
11 Gertrude Stein, for one
12 Likely reader of 42-Across
13 Comparatively chic
14 Reason for an unplanned stop, perhaps
21 What 35-Down might do
23 Dead partner?
24 ___ song coming on
26 Menu option
30 Infomercial biggie
31 Sponge alternative
32 Hollywood's Rowlands
33 Kenosha college
34 "Respect for Acting" author
35 Perry or White
37 Peter's place
39 Versatile trucks, for short
40 Marsh gas, mainly
42 Worked on 47-Across
44 Renowned New York City restaurant
45 From Qum
46 Citrus fruit's white inner rind
48 1970-72 CBS sitcom
49 Therapy starter
50 Protection
54 S&M session souvenir?
56 General type: Abbr.
57 Drench, dialectically

Answers on Page 20

atlanta classifieds

➢ Continued from Page 19

ORMEWOOD PARK - 1146 Confederate Avenue - 2BR/1BA Huge yard with screened-in porch, dishwasher, full security system, cable, Off-street parking. W/D hook-ups $1200/mo 404-622-7018.

NORTHLAKE/BRIARCLIFF 10 min. midtown 3BR/2BA ref/WD pd garbage, alarm cable. No Pets/Smoking. 1yr $1350 mo. Call Wayne 404-273-5229.

BROOKHAVEN

3BR/3BA separate dining, breakfast room, fireplace, hardwoods, stainless appliances, granite counters, walk in closets, large deck with hot tub, fenced yard, 2 car garage, great location, walk to Marta. $2500mo. 404-386-3199 Must see.

EMORY 2 MIN, 2BR/1BA Dishwasher, hdwd floors, large deck, private wooded yard.$1400 mo. 8/01 References 404-636-0324.

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS-completely renovated 2BR/2BA, den, all new kitchen, back porch, full attic storage, garage, $2100 monthly, Gary Chad, 14 West 404-874-6357 x207.

MORNINGSIDE

Townhome 2BR/2.5BA fireplace, roommate plan, french doors to private patio, custom built-ins, $1300 mo. Gary Chad, 14 West 404-874-6357.

Brookhaven: Quaint cottage 2BR/1BA hardwoods, 1 mile from Peachtree St. $875 mo. Pets ok 770-451-9881.

Gorgeous 3BR/2BA house, hardwoods, ceramic tile through out, fireplace in master bedroom, jacuzzi $1550.mo 770-451-9881.

Kirkwood house for rent. Spectacular renovated Craftsman Bungalow. 3BR/1.5 BA lots of period details.10.5ft ceilings. Tiled kit/BAs, separate laundry 2 car carport, fenced yard (maintenance inc). Security inc. Avail 8/6 $1595 mo. Call R. Clare 14 West Realtors 404-245-0765.

KIRKWOOD

Beautiful, brand new. 3BR/2BA; Close to Agnes Scott & Downtown; Hardwood floors; lg kitchen; full unfinished bsmt; washer /dryer incl.; lg yard; off-street pkg; $1275 /mo.; 404-733-6855.

Real Estate For Sale

MIDTOWN

Midrise sophisticated 2BR/2BA overlooking piedmont park. $200,000 pool/concierge, secured parking. Contact Mary Ellen Jones/Harry Norman Realtors. 404-240-2744

Victorian Stunner inside I-285. 3BR/2.5BA, with extraordinary attention to detail! Vaulted ceilings wrap around porch, bay windows, banquet size dining room, gorgeous master bedroom/bath and more! $229,900. Call Susan 404-229-7323.

Elegant midtown! Condo, hardwoods, gardens, office. Exclusive 6 unit bldg. $198k. Bring offer. 404-815-9448.

ALABAMA FOOTHILLS

Private, secluded on 9,964 wooded acres, creek 2BR/1BA cabin, no neighbors in sight. Great weekend retreat. Only $59,900. Call Karen for information or tour. Agent 678-521-3585.

LOFT LIVING

5BR/4BA, in-law suite. email pamwarren1@cs.com 404-784-7674.

Immaculate 3BR/2BA European ranch on cul-de-sac in Decatur. 2886 Royal Bluff. Call Paige Coley at Harry Norman, Realtors 404-271-9038.

DECATUR

Downtown historic Decatur condominiums 2BR/2BA. Hardwoods stainless steel appliances, cherry cabinetry, large porch, off street parking, high ceilings. $239,900. 404-275-0438.

AVONDALE ESTATES

Open house Sunday 7/21 & 7/28.1-5pm 230 Ivy Park Square. Beautiful 18 month old home. Spacious 4BR/2.5BA 2 living, 2 dining. Hardwoods, crown molding, professionally landscaped and maintained. Inside 285, 4 min to Decatur Square, 18 min to downtown, $276,900. Owner 404-292-1200

Decatur City

231 Lansdowne.A home with a soul. Early 1900's craftsman bungalow. 10ft ceilings, large central hallway. 3BR/1.5BA, deep lot, wonderful n'hood, walk to Decatur square $279,500. Karafotias Realty. 404-321-0030. Karen Devendorf ext. 25 or Mary Rigger ext.16

BUCKHEAD'S #1 HI-RISE CONDOS

1BRs -$140's,
2BRs-$190's.

Prime Location, Secured property, pool, fitness center, Garage, Clubroom.

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BEACH HOMES

Looking for the perfect vacation or retirement home/condo? Consider the beach communities of Seaside, Seagrove and Grayton Beach, Florida. White sand, emerald water, old Florida cottages and great shopping! Call Chris Cash at 1-800-994-5030 or email: cash@30Arealty.com.

Roommate Services

The Gay Roommate Service

Call Bill 404-264-1536

Roommates

ALPHARETTA

30 WGF seeking professional SGF as roommate for 3BR/2.5 bath home in Alpharetta. $550/MO + 1/2 utilities. W/D, off street parking, private yard. $200.00 dep. req. 678-472-4417

DUNWOODY, 1-mi off 285 young males for 4BR/3BA home w/pool & spa, p table, W/D, garage, furnish/unfurnish. 770-458-5661.

Furnished room. 7 minutes to midtown. Marta. NO PETS. $75.00 per week. ED 404-768-5841.

East Atlanta-GWM to share 3BR/2BA house w/fireplace. Off street driveway, fenced backyard. $450/mo utilities included + deposit. 404-277-0288.

East Cobb. Convenient to I-75/Roswell Rd. Man seeks same body builder/Fitness trainer to share home. Indoor heated pool, home gym. Non-smoker, no pets/drugs. Great deal. 404-285-5309.

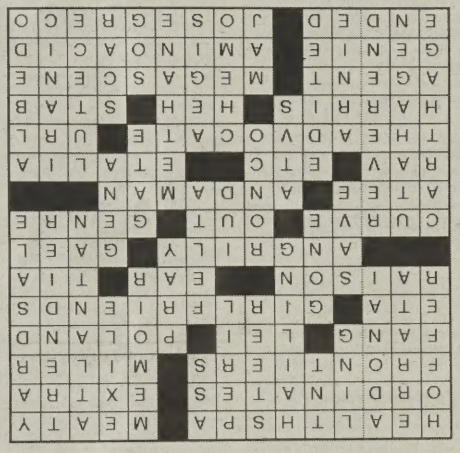
Emory, looking for young GM, share 2BR/2BA condo nice. Temporary, permanent. $375.00 mo. 404-636-6411.

MORNINGSIDE/Va.Highlands-GWM seeks responsible roommate to share a large newly renovated home. House features a pool, hot tub, and home theater. $600/mo includes utilities & maid service 404-873-1000.

Midtown: Ansley Forest townhouse overlooking pool. GWM seeks roommate to share 2BR/1.5 BA $500.00 plus 1/2 utilities. W/D Call 404-881-8124.

Q Puzzle solution

Answers to puzzle on Page 19



southern voice

Classified Order Form

Fax: 404-876-2709
Phone: 404-876-1819 ext. 15

TO PLACE AN AD: IN PERSON: Bring completed order form with payment to *Southern Voice* (M-F, 9-6 pm) 1075 Zonolite Rd., Ste. 1-D, Atlanta. **BY MAIL:** Mail completed order form with payment to *Southern Voice* Classifieds, 1075 Zonolite Rd, Ste. 1D, Atlanta, GA 30306. **BY PHONE:** Call in with completed order form to 404-876-1819 ext. 15. **BY FAX:** Fax completed order form and credit card information to Classifieds 404-876-2709. **BY E-MAIL:** classifieds@sovo.com. **AD POLICY:** *Southern Voice* reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting *Southern Voice* standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: *Southern Voice* is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

DEADLINE FOR AD SUBMISSION • ATLANTA: MONDAY AT 12 NOON

1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY

FREE: Call for guidelines
___ HIV Services & Education
___ Volunteers

INDIVIDUAL RATE $7:
___ Announcements
___ Auditions
___ Employment–Seeking
___ Pets–Free or Lost & Found
___ Roommates

BUSINESS RATE $15:
___ Autos
___ Business
___ Employment–Full Time
___ Employment–Part Time
___ Finance
___ Health
___ Legal
___ Massage Therapy
___ Merchandise
___ Pets–For Sale, Training
___ Publications
___ Real Estate–For Rent
___ Real Estate–For Sale
___ Travel

Call 404-876-1819 ext. 15 (ATL) or 504-821-9041 (NEW ORL) for other categories

2 WRITE YOUR AD

Please print clearly

CATEGORY:_____ **# OF ISSUES:** _____

Giant Headline ($5/week)–Not to exceed 14 characters and spaces

TEXT: _____

3 TOTAL YOUR COST

INDIVIDUAL RATE ADS
Up to 20 words for $7.00 per week. Additional words at 50¢ each per week.

Up to 20 words: 7.00
Additional words _____ x 50¢: _____
Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)
Subtotal: _____ x _____ # of issues
Total: $_____

BUSINESS RATE ADS
Up to 20 words for $15.00 per week. Additional words at $1.00 each per week.

Up to 20 words: 15.00
Additional words _____ x $1.00: _____
Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)
Subtotal: _____ x _____ # of issues
Total: $_____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City _____ State_____ Zip_____
Phone _____
Check Enclosed _____ Charge to my ❑ AMEX ❑ MC ❑ VISA
Card #_____ Exp.____/____

Midtown condo. Seeking open-minded financially stable individual to share 2BR unit with GM couple and two cats. Walk to Piedmont, restaurants. Fully furnished.$500.00/mo plus 1/3 utilities. 404-876-2387.

STUDENT SPECIAL

Roommate needed for small 2BR/1BA house in West End.$300 mo plus 1/2 utilities.Call 770-855-5683 for information.

EAST ATLANTA

GM couple seek roommate to share private home near east Atlanta Village in town. No/drugs/pets/smoking. $450mo, includes utilities, except phone. $300.00 dep. References req. 678-643-6369.

Candler Park/L5P. Mature lesbian to share house with woman and dog. W/D yard, Marta CH/A, restaurants. $400 mo. plus utilities.404-522-5623.

MIDTOWN ANSLEY

GWM seeks responsible roommate to share 2BR/2BA dining room,large terrace.Complex beautifully landscaped with pool,corner bedroom sunny and quiet.$600 mo includes utilities & parking.Gay friendly complex.Walk to Ansley mall. 404-347-9134.

Roommate needed to share 3BR/2BA condo.Convenient to Midtown and Buck head.Must be neat and responsible. $475.00 includes utilities. 678-596-7461.

Lesbian looking for roommate for cute 3/BR house in Lakewood-1120 Oak Knoll Terrace $350/mo. + 1/2 utilities. Must like smokers and dogs.(I have 2). Call Julie 404-627-1059

GAINESVILLE AREA- Non-smoking GWM seeks same to share 3/BR home. $450/mo + 1/2 utilities & $300/dep. 3/miles from I-985. You furnish bedroom. Eric 770-297-1566.

GM couple seeking clean responsible GM roommate. NO smoking or drugs. Sutton Place Apartments. $550.00 mo includes utilities except phone plus $350 deposit. Move in 08/01. (references required). Call Butch at 404-633-7473.

Roswell/Alpharetta area.GWPM seeks GPM/F to share 3BR/2.5BA townhome. Rent includes all utilities. Separate phone required.Only $500.00 mo.Fully furnished except BR $250.00 deposit No smoking or pets.404-316-9204.

2 rooms for rent in private house on MARTA. $475 includes all utilities. W/D, 10 minutes to midtown, Mercer University Drive. Call 770-934-8014.

Cross Creek Condo: GWM and GWF seeking roommate for 3BR/2BA. $575 per month plus deposit.Contact: 404-367-0403

Rooms For Rent

Home But Not Alone- Enjoy reduced rent and comfortable housing. Fast placements, homes now available! No waiting list. Share with a person living with HIV. Call Rita at 770-395-2625. or call Susan at 770-395-2546.

Services

MOVING?

Executive Moving Service! We do homes, apartments & offices. Dependable, professional movers, 770-736-6093. "we take the STRESS out of moving".

Travel

MENS' RETREAT

Private close to I-85 in N.E. Georgia. Pool, jacuzzi, clubhouse, tent and R.V. sites. Day/wk./mo. 706-246-0682.

GA Mountain Getaway

Cozy cabin by Lake Burton: huge fireplace for winter, deck/dock for summer. Hiking, swimming, antiquing, touring...or just loafing! 404-521-0630

BLACK BEAR CABIN RENTALS

"a great place to hibernate". Blue Ridge Georgia 1-888-90CABIN(2-2246). www.blackbearcabinrentals.com.

CAMPING FOR WOMEN

CAMPING for WOMEN - riverfront sites. Inexpensive cabins - also B&B with Jacuzzi. One hour from Atlanta - 888-808-5021 www.SwiftwatersWomanspace.com

Alpine Helen

Romantic MOUNTAIN LAUREL CHALET, jacuzzi, fireplace, satellite TV, 3 bedrooms, sleeping loft, 2 bathrooms. Seasonal specials. Free brochure. Visit our web site www.whitecounty.com/chalet or call 404-325-9763.

Metro Atlanta Suite

Prime Buckhead location, Awesome Accomadations, Resonable Rates, Short or Long Term. 404-352-5570, www.PrideRealty.com.

Travel/ Vacation Rentals

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2 bedroom, sleeps six, fireplace, screen porch. Above Lake Rabun, great view. Weekly or weekend rentals. www.lakerabun.com/cabin 706-782-3099.

ELLIJAY

Mountain Cottage-SALE or VACATION RENTAL, mountain view, spa, fireplace, vaulted ceilings. $89,000/$200 week-end rate. 770-427-3650.

Volunteers

Designated Driver

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A OPPORTUNITY TO Make a difference, WHILE INVESTING JUST A FEW HOURS NIGHTLY? If your answer is YES, the National Designated Drivers Association has the opportunity that you were looking for! The National Designated Drivers Association is looking for individuals, businesses and social groups to assist in our efforts to provide Volunteer Team Drivers to take impaired individuals and their cars home for FREE! Our sponsors include, but are not limited to, bars, restaurants, nightclubs, and not-for-profit and for-profit corporations. Our drivers work in teams of 2 and each driver is given a 2-way radio, so you are never alone! Although this is a Volunteer Opportunity, many of our volunteers will receive $$$GENEROUS TIPS$$$ Volunteer shifts are available during mornings, afternoons and evenings. We Need YOU! Contact: Christine V. Randall Director of Development and Volunteerism 404-888-0887 ext. 104.

Volunteer Facilitator

Help us serve your community!! The center is seeking a volunteer facilitator to lead our Women's group (for lesbians and bisexual women). Master's degree in psychology, social work, ounseling or other mental health related field preferred, but not required. Please call us at 404-523-7500 or cw@aglc,org.

Volunteer facilitator

Help us serve your community!! The center is seeking a volunteer facilitator to lead our GLBT Parents Groups. Master's degree in psychology, social work, counseling or other mental health field preferred but not required. Knowledge and/or experience with parenting issues required. Please call us at 404-523-7500 or cw@aglc.org.

Research Study

Research study needs Homosexual & Bisexual men (ages 35-45). Takes 60 minutes and availability is flexible. 404-819-2405.

FOOD NOT BOMBS

Volunteers needed to help prepare and serve meals for the homeless and needy. Founded in Boston in 1981, 140 locations nationwide and abroad, serving 3 times weekly. Financial Aid Welcomed! To volunteer, call Bob Darby at 404-622-5859.

Volunteer Facilitator

Needed for HIV Support Group. Lead AIDS Survival Projects's Monday Night Positively Living Support Group. Each Monday 7:30-9:30pm. The group is open to Men & Women who are living w/HIV. Prefer that the facilitator has training in social work, psychology, or sociology. Group exp. preferred. Any interested persons should call Terri Wilder at 404-874-7926 ext 13.

NATIONAL AIDS EDUCATION & SERVICES for MINORITIES is seeking volunteers for the following areas: special events, bar & club outreach, clerical support, house monitor, food pantry, clothing closet, fund raising, yard maintenance, group facilitation, and education. Volunteer training available monthly. Please contact Jala at 404-753-2900, ext 17.

The south metro youth council for the American Red Cross is seeking volunteers/youth council members for varied activities. We have a calender of events for the 2001 term. Please call 770-506-4233 for info.

Help a child

AID Atlanta is looking for responsible adults who have one morning a week available to volunteer in the playroom at the Grady Ponce de Leon Center. You would be caring for HIV-infected and affected children 10 years and younger. For more information please call Bob Ford 404-870-7741.

The Ga. Council on Child Abuse is a statewide, non-profit, child abuse prevention agency. Volunteers are needed in a variety of opportunities. For more information on volunteering please call 404-870-6573.

Yard Sale

Morningside/Emory Annual 800 family yard sale. All kinds of great stuff. For details 404-873-1743/ ext. 225. Only Sun. 8/12 8-5pm. 1180 University Dr. between N. Highland & Briarcliff.

Braves

ATLANTA GAMES 2006

Braves Baseball & Atlanta Games, Inc.

Two teams unite to welcome the Federation of Gay Games and you're invited!

Join us for Atlanta Games, Inc. Night to celebrate our bid for the 2006 Gay Games and the spirit of our community.

Wednesday, August 8
Atlanta Braves vs. Houston Astros
First Pitch 7:05pm
Tickets: $10

Available at Brushstrokes, Charis Books & More, and Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse and The Boy Next Door or by calling 404-577-GAME or visit www.atlantagames2006.org

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Men Seeking Men

FUNNY, ATTRACTIVE...
fit male, 6', 175lbs, blond/green, enjoys travel, working out, and his two dogs. Seeking sincere, honest, funny guy. Atlanta ☎4349

SEEKING SPECIAL SOMEONE
Attractive, healthy SBM, 35, HIV+, N/S, social drinker, slender build, seeks down-to-earth, sincere SM, HIV+, not into mind games or club scene. Atlanta ☎4932

GAINESVILLE
SWM, 30, 6', 170lbs, blond/blue, enjoys photography, videos, outdoors, country music. Seeking male under 30, for dating. Mount Airy ☎1880

SOUTHSIDE MAN
Good-looking GWM, 63 years young, 6', 175lbs, enjoys sports, arts, dining out, fitness. Seeking good-looking GM, 45-60, preferably Hispanic, in good shape, for dating, possible LTR. South side. Stockbridge. ☎4946

POLICE OR UNIFORM
GWM, 6'2", 225lbs, flat top, gym hard, seeks a policeman or uniform freak for dating/relationship. Villa Rica ☎4960

SEEKING BODY BUILDER
Muscular GWM, 41, 5'7", 150lbs, with slim, muscular build, enjoys working out, outdoors, beaches, cultural events. Seeking large-chested body builder, over 35, for dating. Atlanta ☎4936

LOOKING FOR THE ONE
GWM, 25, 5'9", 150lbs, tan and smooth, generally a bottom, looking for a WM, 25-40, who is adventurous yet serious at the same time, for possible LTR. Decatur ☎4859

BOTTOMS UP!
GWM, early 30's, 5'7", 135lbs, dark/hazel, top-only, enjoys movies, cooking, watching tv. Seeking SWM, 30-45, bottom, for dating, possible LTR. Tucker ☎4828

SEEKING QUALITY GUY
GWM, 36, 6'2", 190lbs, brown/brown, seeks similar GWM, 25-45, who enjoys movies, outdoors, sports, for friendship, possible relationship. Sugar Hill ☎4260

SEEKING NEW FRIEND
Male, 30, 6'3", 210lbs, Atlanta area, enjoys tennis, beaches, theater, art. Seeking a male to spend time with, for friendship, possibly more. ☎4825

QUALITY GUY SEEKS SAME
All-American type guy, 6'2", 180lbs, dark/dark, seeks a male for casual dating or friendship. Atlanta ☎4840

COMPANIONSHIP
Honest, sincere GBM, 33, HIV+, seeks secure GBM for friendship first, possible committed, long-term relationship. Atlanta ☎4042

MUSCLE JOCK SEEKS DAD
Shy, submissive SWM, 28, 6'2", 230lbs, seeks fun-loving, easygoing, financially secure GWM, 45+, for monogamous LTR. Atlanta ☎4659

SEEKING LTR
Attractive, healthy GBM, 37, 5'9", 155lbs, HIV+, seeks mature, stable SM for friendship and LTR. Atlanta ☎4787

WHERE ARE YOU?
Attractive, witty GWM, 38, 5'5", 140lbs, brown/brown, seeks tall, handsome GWM, 30-40, N/S, humorous, affectionate, for dating, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎3515

SLIM AND SMOOTH
GWM, 35, good-looking, versatile, very smooth, well-made, seeks similar, clean, healthy, good attitude, non-bar-crawler. No one-nighters. Atlanta ☎4486

FUN GUY
Light-hearted, sensitive WPM, 6'2", 185lbs, brown/brown, loves reading, movies. Seeking upbeat, down-to-earth, spiritual guy for casual dating. Atlanta ☎3538

FIRST TIME
Closing ceremonies, 6-24, would like to meet and have coffee, you with blacked framed glasses, was drinking bottled beer with two guys and two girls. Atlanta ☎4567

Been Glanced?

MIKE
I spoke to you and friend at Phillips Arena, then spoke to you leaving back street. Me; Kevin, tall, wish I had asked you to share my cab, date? Atlanta ☎4833

PUBLIX ON PIEDMONT 7/9
You: WM, blond, blue/white striped shirt, stunning blue eyes. Me: WM, brown hair, goatee, orange shirt. Can I cook you dinner? Atlanta ☎4897

6/23, PETSMART ON PONCE
You: BM, built, red cap/shirt/shorts, with another guy. Me: WM, blond, t-shirt, navy jeans. We were petting the animals for adoption out front. Let's meet. Decatur ☎4830

DECATUR YMCA
Three-five years ago: Auburn fan, black car/tiger tags front and back. Me: older man who ran from you. Now sorry that I did. Please let me hear from you. Decatur ☎4832

PRIDE SUNDAY VA/HI
You, brunette in back seat of small car, kept glancing. Me, black leather and motorcycle. You looked interested, so am I. Call me. Atlanta Pine Lake ☎4835

ROASTERS ON LENOX 6/15
You: Dark hair, red plaid shirt, with friends, cute, cute, cute! Me: Green t-shirt, blue plaid shirt, with friend. Let's meet for dinner (just the two of us). Atlanta ☎4836

FORMER SKATER
You: blond, 40 year-old, former skater, performed in Indianapolis. Me: David, cap, 52 year-old, glasses. We met at Tripps in March. Please call. Atlanta ☎4478

SEEKING ROGER
WM, 6', 190lbs, muscular, attractive, seeks BM, around 6', 200lbs+, attractive, muscular, seen at Blake's. Atlanta ☎4879

PM SEEKS PM
GWM, 30, 5'7", 155lbs, seeks well-educated PM who likes traveling, movies, and dining out for LTR. Atlanta ☎4734

HI DAVID!
We met in New Orleans Sunday, May 27th, you: blue baseball cap, me: sunglasses (you should have kept them). I really enjoyed meeting you, please e-mail or call me. Ken. Washington ☎4704

HIV+ BLACK MALE
SBM, 45, 6', 198lbs, Native American descent, healthy HIV+, seeks healthy HIV+ SB/HM, for possible monogamous relationship. Barnesville ☎3294

HARD-WORKING, CARING
BPM, HIV+, 5'10", 178lbs, 40s, enjoys exercise, dining in and out, cozy evenings, and more. Seeking similar, sincere male, any race, possible LTR. Dunwoody area. ☎4019

CUTE, SWEET BOTTOM
Attractive SBM, 5'5", 148lbs, muscular build, light brown complexion, enjoys exercise, reading, dining out. Seeking aggressive top, for possible monogamous LTR. Race/age unimportant. Atlanta ☎4865

ARE YOU HUSKY?
WM, 54, 5'10", 230lbs, hairy bear, bottom, seeks husky/chubby, sincere guy for fun, friendship, and possible LTR. Atlanta ☎4735

HUNGRY FOR BIG BICEPS
Handsome, in shape, caring GWM, 37, 5'11", 185lbs, seeks massive GWM, body builder for friendship, cuddling and muscle worship. Show those muscles off to your number one fan. Atlanta ☎4939

SEEK LOVE, HAPPINESS
Affectionate, caring BM, 49, 5'9", 201lbs, seeks attractive, caring, sensitive SM, 55+, for cuddling and companionship. Normal ☎3978

RELATIONSHIP-ORIENTED?
So am I! Let's talk! Honest, thoughtful, sincere GWM, 44, 6'3", 195lbs, N/S, sweet disposition, non-scene, seeks same to take chance on dating with possibility of relationship. Atlanta ☎4658

SINGLE BARE BOTTOM DAD,
6'3", 220lbs, brown/brown, HIV-, seeks slim, fun-loving, spiritual, top/versatile single GWM, 33-45, non-bar crawler, for friendship first, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎4829

SEEKING COMPANION
Attractive, masculine, financially secure GBM, 38, 5'11", 195lbs, seeks GBM for friendship and companionship. All calls will be answered. Lithonia ☎3376

SOMEONE JUST LIKE ME
SWM, 46, 5'9", 155lbs, brown/blue, moustache, easy to get along with, seeks male, 35 to 55, for friendship/relationship. Please be sincere, honest, humorous. All replies answered. Mountain City ☎3369

GBM, HIV+...
5'9", 155lbs, outgoing and honest, seeks romance and adventure with a quality man. You must be GWM, 33-40, honest, and not afraid of an LTR and monogamy. East Point ☎4900

SEEKING COMMITTED LTR
This funny, sweet, initially shy male seeks honest, caring, down-to-earth male, who enjoys theater, clubs, and dining out, for committed LTR. Buford ☎4749

SUMMER FUN TILL WINTER
GWM, early 40s, 6', 185lbs, enjoys camping, fishing, hiking, outdoors, exploring, archeology. Seeking healthy GWM, 18-35 for fun and possible relationship. Cumming ☎4628

SEEKING COMPANION
SBM, 50, 6'1", 195lbs, masculine, enjoys movies, theater, sports, travel, reading, live music. Seeking honest, down-to-earth SM for casual dating and friendship first. ☎4858

SAVANNAH BEACH...
seeks long-term. GWM, 40, 6'2", 220lbs, brown/blue, lives at Tybee Beach. Seeking GWM, 30-65, who enjoys the beach life. For friendship, possible LTR. Tybee Island ☎3852

KINDRED SPIRIT
Attractive, masculine, successful, secure, romantic GWM, 40-something, top, seeks attractive, younger relationship GWM, bottom, to adore. Serious only. Atlanta ☎4093

ROMANCE AND LOVE
GHM, 49, 5'11", 183lbs, seeks honest, romantic, sincere guy, for possible LTR. Age/race unimportant. North Atlanta ☎4171

SOMETHING DIFFERENT
SM, 6', 200lbs, black/blue, likes sports, walks, biking, camping, reading, movies. Seeking quiet, easygoing man, for friendship first, maybe more. Macon ☎4795

RUGGED AND SENSITIVE
Creative, artistic SM, 46, 5'9", dark/hazel, medium build, enjoys working out, theater, plays, movies, music. Seeking outgoing, stable, fun male, social drinker. Atlanta ☎3975

HEART-ON
Come on and try this HIV+ GWM, 47, 5'11", 190lbs, toned build, shaved head, blue eyes, blond goatee, honest, affectionate, sexual, enjoys movies, hiking, dining out, aerobics. Let's talk. Atlanta ☎4775

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- ☐ Just Friends
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FUN FOR SUMMER
Athletic, in shape, very healthy GWM, 38, 6'1", brown/blue, HIV+, with many different interests, enjoys outdoors. Looking for possible relationship. Atlanta ☎3930

IT ALL STARTS HERE
Attractive SBM, 43, seeks honest, secure, outgoing SM with great sense of humor for friendship that may develop into something more. Race/age unimportant. Gainesville ☎3908

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP
Sincere, honest, quiet, easy-going GWM, 56, 145lbs, brown/brown, mustache, N/S, N/D, enjoys movies, quiet evenings. Seeking male, 40-60, for relationship. Stone Mountain ☎4088

ASIAN...
male, 34, caring, romantic, has good sense of humor, enjoys being together. Seeking friendly, honest, outgoing male. Age unimportant. Atlanta ☎4798

RIGHT NEAR MACON
WM, 47, 5'11", 160lbs, brown/brown, sincere, healthy, fit, with diverse interests, seeks WM, 25-50, with similar qualities. Warner Robins ☎4627

WEEKEND FUN & FRIENDSHIP
GWM, 50s, 5'10", 145lbs, HIV-, seeks younger, laid-back, drug-free SM, non-smoker, race unimportant, medium build, for friendship and fun. Atlanta ☎4626

LOOKING TO FIND
Tall dark-skinned SM black hair brown eyes, looking for light-skinned,tall, muscular significant other. If interested please call. Decatur ☎4899

SEEKING MONOGAMOUS LTR
GWM, 55, 6'6", 195lbs, sandy/blue, enjoys dining out, movies, and travel. Seeking GB/H/A or Native-American male. Stone Mountain ☎4938

SEEKING FRIEND/LOVER
Secure GBM, 38, 5'10", 170lbs. D/D-free, enjoys sports, quiet times at home. Seeking similar, attractive, masculine man, 35+, for fun times. Roswell ☎4937

SOMEONE SPECIAL
Handsome, sincere SBM, 40, 5'8", 150lbs, HIV+, seeks independent, easygoing, masculine, short, loving, romantic, intelligent SM, 35-45, H/W proportionate, for relationship. Atlanta ☎4736

Women Seeking Women

COME OUT AND PLAY
GWF, 31, seeks GWF, 28-45, for concerts, movies, clubs, walks in the park and other fun things. Atlanta ☎4831

NEWLY OUT & SINGLE
Intelligent, attractive GWF, 36, brown/blue, fem/soft butch, enjoys movies, books, music, dancing, quiet evenings, rainy nights. Seeking butch GWF, N/S, N/Drugs, with similar interests, for friendship first possible LTR. Clermont ☎4896

WHERE'S MY FEMININE WOMAN
Intelligent, outgoing, attractive, extremely feminine GWF, 25, medium build, hazel eyes, enjoys walks in the park, sports. Seeking feminine GWF, similar interests, for wonderful friendship, possibly more. Atlanta ☎4526

SEEKING SOFT BUTCH
Easygoing GWF, 41, brown/brown, with good sense of humor, smoker, enjoys music, beaches, sports utility vehicles, cooking, decorating. Seeking GWF, 33-43, for possible LTR. Marietta ☎4703

WAITING FOR YOU
Brown-complected, broad-minded SBF, 28, 5', 120lbs, enjoys good music, good food, travel, shopping, reading, park walks, beach, candlelight dinners, tv. Seeking responsible, independent, loving, caring, adventurous, feminine woman. Atlanta ☎4949

MID 30S AND EARLY 40S
GWM couple, seeks down-to-earth GWM or GWF for friendship only. Enjoys dining out, movies, weekend travel. Not into bar scene, N/Drugs, and N/S. Lawrenceville ☎4320

NEED A FRIEND?
GWF, 48, enjoys outdoors, dining, intelligent conversation. Seeking GWF, 36+, for friendship. Covington ☎3956

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL
SWF, 37, N/Drugs, feminine, spiritual, appreciates butch women, loves the outdoors, music. Seeking trustworthy, stable women for friendship. Talking Rock ☎4883

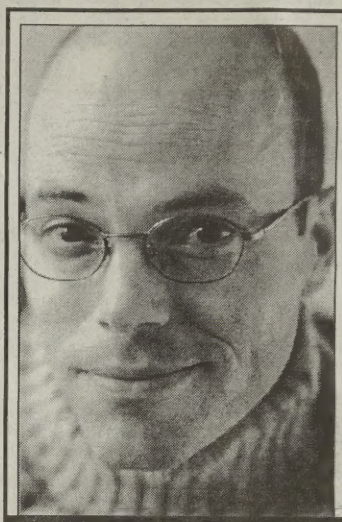
DOUGLASVILLE
Handsome WM, 5'11", 205lbs, blue eyes, all-over tan, works out five days a week, seeks other gym types that like to sunbathe and go to the beach. Douglasville ☎4857

SEEKING NEW FRIEND
Spiritual GBF couple, early 30s, enjoys poetry, stimulating conversation, fine dining, and social functions. Seeking other couples with similar interests, for friendship. Lithonia ☎4668

LOOKING FOR FRIENDS
2 GW males, 53 and 60, enjoy dining out, movies, and traveling. Seeking other males in northeast Georgia area. Elberton ☎4731

LET'S PLAY
SBF, 24, seeks GWF, 21-45, butch, soft butch, or androgynous, who are into movies, concerts, local bands, activism, dancing, C&W, hip-hop, alternative. College Park ☎4523

WAITING FOR YOU
GBF, 22, seeks open-minded dominant female, 5'9"+, race unimportant, no kids, light smoker ok, for LTR. Chicago ☎4674



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HERE WE GO AGAIN
Petite, athletic-built WPF, 41, enjoys golf, movies, music, beach, mountains, reading. Seeking honest female, 35-50, good sense of humor, for friendship first, possible LTR. Waleska ☎3036

BEAUTIFUL GWF
GWF, 31, 5'9", 140lbs, brown/brown, very feminine, 14 year-old daughter, likes movies, walks in the park, Nascar. Seeking someone for fun, travel, quiet times, possible LTR. Hampton ☎4797

DOWN-TO-EARTH LIBRA
Full-figured GBF, 35, mother of two, enjoys movies, tennis, bowling, reading, music, travel. Seeking friendship first, possible LTR. D/D-free. Atlanta ☎4275

FEMME SEEKING FEMME
Woman, 5'8", brown/brown, large build, no children, enjoys movies, international traveling, reading. Seeking educated, goal-oriented female for LTR. Friendship first. Atlanta ☎4732

COME TO ME
Down-to-earth GBF, 5'5", 150lbs, enjoys working out, golf, fine dining, music, and travel. Seeking honest, lovable GF, 25-40, for friendship first, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎4670

FEMININE
Attractive, petite, artistic, athletic, stable, free-spirited GWF, 26, seeks feminine, confident, attractive, affectionate, goal-oriented GF, 23-36, N/S. Atlanta ☎4211

SPORTY BUT FEMININE
Healthy in mind and body. GWF, 46, H/W proportionate, with a variety of interests, enjoys travel, hiking, tennis. Seeking woman of similar age and interests. Atlanta. McDonough ☎4764

DON'T SWEAT SMALL...
stuff. New Orleans, attractive, humorous, compassionate GBP mom, medium height/weight, loves movies, hugs, candlelight evenings, bicycling. Seeking similar BF, 35+, N/S, friendship first. ☎3514

SEEKING QUALITY
Sensuous, attractive SF, 22, enjoys fine dining, theater, music. Seeking intelligent GBF for quality time together. Atlanta ☎4728

SEEKING MY BUTCH
GW femme, 45, seeks my true butch, 5'6"+, who is interested in LTR. I know you're out there! Norcross ☎4262

MISS RIGHT
Hard-working SBF, brown-skinned with braids, enjoys basketball, romantic dinners. Seeking BF, 35-40, for LTR. South Carolina resident. Beaufort ☎4480

Just Friends

WILD WHITE LESBIAN...
seeks fast relationship with a lot of intense evenings. Top preferred. Love leather. Smoking white girl wanted. Possible love, LTR later. Cornelia ☎4935

Bisexuals

SENSE OF HUMOR
BiWM, 48, 5'9", 168lbs, clean-cut, D/D-free, enjoys dining out and concerts. seeks younger WM. Discretion assured. Decatur ☎4676

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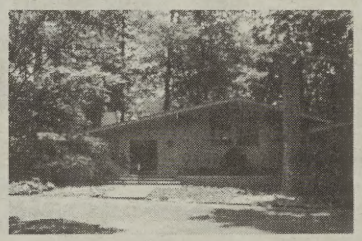

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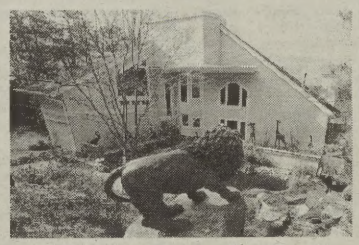

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